

Moscow's joy at freedom for the Sakharovs

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Soviet Union yesterday made a far-reaching gesture to try to improve its tarnished image in the field of human rights by announcing an end to the internal exile imposed nearly seven years ago on Dr Andrei Sakharov, the country's best known dissident.

The unexpected gesture, which had been repeatedly demanded by Western leaders, was announced as the dramatic finale to an otherwise routine press conference called by the Soviet Foreign Ministry, ostensibly to discuss the future of the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing.

Prompted by a question from an American television reporter, Mr Vladimir Perlovsky, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, stunned the 400 Western and Soviet newsmen by informing them that Dr Sakharov was free to return to Moscow from the closed city of Gorky and to resume his scientific career.

Mr Petrovsky, who was understood to have been acting on the specific orders of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, went on to announce that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet had also offered a pardon to Dr Sakharov's wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, who was sentenced to five years' internal exile for anti-state activities in 1984.

The news spread quickly on the hush telegraph through Moscow's dissident community, where it was greeted with astonishment and delight. Close friends of Dr Sakharov said that the dissident physicist, aged 65, and his 62-year-old wife were not

because he was still in possession of state secrets. This referred to Dr Sakharov's work as the inventor of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, which was developed in 1953. He is widely regarded for his scientific brain, but in recent years he has become a symbol of the fight for intellectual freedom inside the Soviet Union. Recent reports have said that his health is not good.

One of the key factors behind the Kremlin move, which was seen as a further demonstration of Mr Gorbachev's growing personal power, was a private letter sent to the Soviet leader earlier this year in which the dissident physicist offered to curtail his public activities in exchange for the relaxation of official measures against him.

The first sign of a thaw in the Kremlin's attitude towards the Sakharovs - who have been subjected to gross KGB harassment and surveillance during their lonely exile - came last December, when Mrs Bonner was permitted to go on a six-month trip to the West for medical treatment.

Soviet officials said that the timing of yesterday's announcement was also linked to the recent offer by the Kremlin to host an international human rights conference in Moscow for all nations participating in the European security and co-operation conference in Vienna.

WASHINGTON: The White House yesterday said it was pleased to hear of the release of Dr Sakharov from internal exile but noted that the system of abuses of human rights in the Soviet Union continued (Mohsin Ali writes).

Mr Halcem Hasani says the council suspects him of having put pressure on Miss Maureen McGoldrick, the headteacher of Sudbury Infants School, not to employ any more black or Asian teachers.

On Thursday night the council decided, on legal advice, to drop its proceedings against Miss McGoldrick but said it would investigate the conduct of "certain governors and parents".

Mr Hasani said yesterday: "I understand they mean me. But I am ready for them. I do not feel guilty. I spoke the truth and I do not regret anything that I have said."

Mr Hasani estimates that about half the teachers at Sudbury are black or Asian, as are about 85 per cent of the children. "I have never objected to black teachers, what I complained about was really a managerial issue: there was a problem about how they were distributed.

Ex-champion jockey freed on £1.2m sureties



Lester Piggott: Must report weekly to the police.

Lester Piggott accused of false tax statement

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Lester Piggott, the former champion jockey, appeared yesterday before Newmarket magistrates accused of making a false tax statement about his bank accounts. He was remanded until March 19.

The magistrates had given one of Britain's legendary figures three hours to raise £200,000 in bail sureties and £1 million in cash to put before the court or face prison.

He was unable to raise the cash but had his home and stables valued at a little short of the £1 million needed. The court accepted the deeds plus increased sureties.

At the end of two special court sessions last night Mr Piggott was freed after two other famous racing figures had each pledged £125,000. They were Mr Henry Cecil, the leading trainer, and Mr Charles St George, the millionaire Newmarket race horse owner.

Mr Piggott and his wife signed over their home and stables worth £950,000 to the court.

It had taken five and a half hours for Mr Piggott, who spent much of the afternoon in the Newmarket police cells, to free himself.

Even after the court accepted the stables deeds they still insisted they should be signed over by Mrs Piggott as well as her husband.

After being freed, Mr Piggott said in a written statement: "I was very disappointed to be arrested today as, since 1 February 1986, my advisers and myself had spent thousands of hours getting together all the evidence that was sought by Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise with a view to settling my affairs. This evidence was made available to the

authorities and it would seem now to be used against me next year."

Mr Piggott, aged 51, who became a trainer after retiring as a jockey, was arrested at his home in Hamilton Road, Newmarket, yesterday morning by Suffolk police.

According to a spokesman for the Inland Revenue Mr Piggott is accused that "on or about 29 April 1983, at Newmarket or elsewhere did with intent to defraud and to the prejudice of Her Majesty the Queen and the Commissioners deliver or caused to be delivered to the Inland Revenue special office a statement signed by him and dated 29 April 1983 which contained a false statement, namely that the only bank accounts he held at 29 April 1983 were at the National Westminster Bank Newmarket, contrary to Common Law."

The Inland Revenue did not oppose but sought two sureties of £100,000 each, the deposit by Mr Piggott of £2 million, and the surrender of his passport.

The bench adjourned for 20 minutes. When the magistrates returned the chairman, Mr John Moore smiled at Mr Piggott and said: "We are happy to grant bail."

The magistrates set bail with sureties each of £100,000, reducing the amount deposited by the ex-jockey to £1 million. Conditions were also set that he must live at his Newmarket home and report weekly to police.

Mr Piggott, who spent more than nine hours in police custody, was told by magistrates to produce a bankers' draft for £50,000 by 5pm on Monday or to be taken back into police custody.

Michael Seely, page 30

Stalker decides to quit the force

By Ian Smith Northern Correspondent

Mr John Stalker, the disillusioned Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, is quitting the force just three months after successfully clearing his professional and personal reputation.

He has formally applied to retire in March, at least eight years earlier than he had planned to leave the force. He is aged 47.

At his brother's wedding in London yesterday, Mr Stalker said: "I am not a broken man - it's simply that my family don't want me to be a policeman any more."

"I could have put my head down and ignored all the difficulties at work, still doing the job as a professional. But it was killing me to come home and see my wife Stella so upset. I have seen my mother turn from being a sprightly lady into an old woman."

Mr Stalker was removed as head of an inquiry into allegations that the Royal Ulster Constabulary was operating a shoot-to-kill policy, and had to clear himself of allegations that he had associated with known Manchester criminals.

He said yesterday: "I am not going to wash any dirty linen in public unless somebody else starts it. There is no way I am going out as a bitter man."

This was a carefully considered decision involving all my family. It is true to say that I did not intend to retire for at least another eight years, on consideration though I have reassessed my situation and decided to go after 30 years' service like most policemen do."

It is understood that Mr Stalker was bitterly upset that he was not informed in advance of the timing of Myra Hindley's return to Saddleworth moor on Tuesday, particularly as he was one of only three serving members in the Manchester force involved in the original investigation.

It is believed that his resignation was accepted by Chief Constable Mr James Anderson without any attempt made to change his mind.

Recently the emotional strain on Mr Stalker became so great that on doctor's orders he took two weeks off work and told how the sustained pressure of the inquiry had taken its toll on his entire family, including his wife Stella, aged 43, and their two daughters.

Mrs Stalker said that her husband had become a changed man who had lost weight and confidence in his future.

One of the most worrying burdens he has had to carry is the £21,000 legal fees incurred in the long struggle to clear his name.

Continued on Page 20, col 8

Brent ghetto fear of Asian governor

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

The school governor whose allegedly racist activities are now to be investigated by Brent council is an Asian who fears that the council's policies are turning his neighbourhood and his children's school into a "ghetto".

Mr Halcem Hasani says the council suspects him of having put pressure on Miss Maureen McGoldrick, the headteacher of Sudbury Infants School, not to employ any more black or Asian teachers.

On Thursday night the council decided, on legal advice, to drop its proceedings against Miss McGoldrick but said it would investigate the conduct of "certain governors and parents".

Mr Hasani said yesterday: "I understand they mean me. But I am ready for them. I do not feel guilty. I spoke the truth and I do not regret anything that I have said."

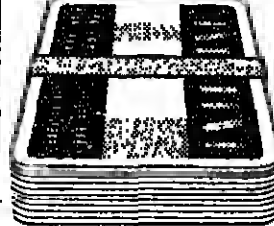
Mr Hasani estimates that about half the teachers at Sudbury are black or Asian, as are about 85 per cent of the children. "I have never objected to black teachers, what I complained about was really a managerial issue: there was a problem about how they were distributed.

But then they gagged me. They tried to sweep the issue under the carpet. Nobody came forward to support me because they were afraid..."

Continued on page 20, col 4

Monday

Trouble in store



The High Street spending boom has been fuelled by ever-easier credit. But how easily do little store cards lead to big financial problems?

Portfolio

£28,000 to be won

There is £28,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - £24,000 in the weekly competition as there has been no winner for the past two weeks, plus the daily prize of £4,000.

TIMES BUSINESS

IMF task

M Michel Camdessus, the new managing director of the International Monetary Fund, faces a tough task in unifying the agency

TIMES SPORT

No standing

FIFA, the governing body of world football, hopes to eliminate hooliganism from the 1994 World Cup by allowing seated spectators only

Sailor lost

Jacques de Roux, a Frenchman competing in the single-handed round-the-world race, is missing, feared drowned, after his yacht was found unmanned south of Sydney

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Iran deal prosecutor appointed

From Michael Binyon Washington

A special three-judge court yesterday named a 74-year-old former judge and diplomat as the independent prosecutor to conduct a criminal investigation of the Iran arms affair.

Judge Lawrence Walsh, a prominent attorney who was the deputy US negotiator at the Vietnam peace talks in Paris, is formally known as an independent counsel.

Like the special Watergate prosecutors, Mr Archibald Cox and Mr Leon Jaworski, he has full power of prosecution. He can make criminal indictments if he finds any laws were broken in the secret sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of some of the profits to the Nicaraguan Contras.

His investigation is likely to take up to a year.

Under strong pressure from Congress and public opinion, an initially reluctant President Reagan announced his request to a court to appoint an independent counsel early this month.

"Judge Walsh is one of the outstanding lawyers of the nation and brings to this very broad investigation into whether there has been a violation of any federal criminal law by any person in the Iran-Contra affair the judgement and ability acquired through years of experience as a prosecutor, federal judge, government official, trial lawyer and as a recognized leader of the bar of the nation," the court said.

Meese evidence, page 5

Whitehall inquiry to end soon

By Colin Narborough

The investigation into the possible abuse of privileged, market-moving information by civil servants could be completed quickly. The Government is believed to have a good idea of where the sources of leaks are to be found.

The Stock Exchange's ability to monitor electronically suspicious share price movements is understood to have played a key part in the decision by Mr Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary, to investigate the very officials responsible for fair competition in business.

His decision to appoint outside inspectors to follow up allegations by officials at the DTI, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading, followed the spate of insider dealings on both sides of the Atlantic.

They are expected to focus on the DTI's divisions dealing with competition policy and mergers, and on the OFT mergers secretariat.

DTI officials refused to say how many civil servants would be involved. Information was available to a broad cross-section of the DTI's 13,000 staff, from junior clerical workers upwards.

Spokesmen for the departments whose officials are under investigation said they were unaware of any suspensions or dismissals linked with the investigation.

Leading article, page 17

'£23m loss' warning

Washington - Shareholders in Guinness stand to lose about £23 million, a third of the £70 million the company invested in the partnership of Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced arbitrator, according to Wall Street analysts (Bailey Morris writes).

The calculations, a new blow to the troubled Guinness company and to its chairman, Mr Ernest Saunders, came as a new storm of controversy

erupted yesterday over the United States Government's settlement with Mr Boesky.

Mr Boesky claims that Wall Street estimates of potential losses are too high.

US officials confirmed that Mr Boesky was allowed to remain with his company, Ivan F Boesky & Co LP, until April 1, 1988, a critically important date.

Boesky £70m, page 21

Chorus of anger at theatre grant cuts

By Gavin Bell Arts Correspondent

The axe of threatened Arts Council cash cuts has fallen principally on the national theatre and opera companies, provoking a chorus of dismay and concern about their survival.

Under the council allocations announced yesterday, the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company will receive no increase in their grants next year - effectively a substantial cut in real terms.

The South Bank Board, which runs the London concert hall complex, was also given a "standstill" grant, while English National Opera received an increase well below inflation.

The Royal Opera House was granted a stay of execution, pending discussions on longer-term funding, but it is unlikely to fare much better than the ENO.

In accordance with the council's regional development policy, arts bodies in Scotland, Wales and the English regions were spared the worst of the cutbacks.

Mr Luke Rittner, secretary-general of the Arts Council, blamed inadequate government funding and said many organizations would have to use all their ingenuity and management skills to stay in business.

"Some of our companies face the prospect of alarming deficits if, on a diminishing income, they are to meet the continuing demand for their activities."

He believed large companies could cope with financial difficulties more easily than some of the smaller ones.

Mr Rittner said the council had begun discussions with Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, on a proposal to establish three-year funding arrangements to replace the current annual grant system.

In the meantime, he had ordered an immediate review of overhead expenditure by the regional arts associations and by the Arts Council itself.

Mr Rittner welcomed arts marketing initiatives by the Government, but said: "You've got to have something to market in the first place."

He concluded: "Our message to the Government is clear. It really should not go on penalising the artistic success of this country."

Boxer in clear over drug test

By John Goodbody

Tim Witherspoon did not fail drug tests for marijuana before and after his World Boxing Association heavyweight title defeat on December 12 by James "Bonecrusher" Smith.

Mr Jose Torres, the chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, said yesterday: "It was a clerical error. Somebody made a critical error in putting 'positive' when it should have been negative. I called Witherspoon at 1.30 am and apologized. He said he appreciated me calling him."

Mr Edward Grayson, author of Sport and the Law, said Witherspoon would be entitled to "almost record damages".

Clerical error, page 34

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NEWS SUMMARY

Single vote sees FitzGerald home

The Irish Republic's government last night won by a majority of one a crucial vote to adjourn the Dail at the end of a debate held in an electrifying atmosphere.

Two sick deputies brought to the chamber for the crucial vote were given an ovation by their parliamentary colleagues as they struggled through the division lobbies.

Mr Oliver Flanagan, a Fine Gael backbencher, looked pale and tired as he entered the Dail with the aid of a walking frame while opposition deputy David Andrews, who is recovering from a back operation, was in a wheelchair for the vote.

But Dr Garret FitzGerald was able to win the debate adjourning the Dail until January 28 when a backbencher who quit his party earlier in the month abstained on the adjournment motion. During the Christmas recess Fine Gael-Labour cabinet ministers will attempt to frame a budget which the Prime Minister has said will involve austerity measures including £2,300 million spending cuts.

However many deputies believe the Government will be forced to go to the country before Easter.

Dockers' Appeal is dismissed

More than 1,000 dockers in Liverpool voted yesterday at the Philharmonic Hall to accept a new two year pay deal which provides a basic wage increase of £8 and £115 bonus paid every six months.

Management have promised better working conditions and working practices to turn the loss-making cargo-handling into profit by attracting more work.

The chairman of the shop stewards committee, Mr Dennis Kelly, said the deal, reached after eight months, had saved the port.

NUJ quits pay role

The National Union of Journalists has decided to withdraw from national pay bargaining with the Newspaper Society, which represents 261 provincial companies.

Branches will have to negotiate pay deals after a ballot of 8,000 members rejected a rise of between £5 and £6 a week and a "get-out clause", which said that newspapers in financial difficulty would not be bound by the agreement.

Bomber guilty

A Birmingham Crown Court jury decided yesterday that James Hazell was the petrol bomber featured on the front pages of the national newspapers during the Handsworth riots in September last year.

Hazell will be sentenced on Monday. He had been pictured carrying a petrol bomb shortly before throwing it into a building supplies shop.

Hazell, aged 32, of Merryhill Drive, Winslow Green, had denied the arson charge. He said he was not the man in the photograph.



Beloff takes charge of Tory students

By Nicholas Wood
Political Reporter

Lord Beloff, the political historian and founder of Britain's only private university, is one of a quartet of right-wing academics appointed to form the core of the body replacing the recently disbanded Federation of Conservative Students.

Lord Beloff, aged 73, who holds several senior party posts, will be joined by Dr John Marks, until recently a senior lecturer at the North London Polytechnic and one

of the Black Paper authors; Professor John Honey, of Leicester University; and Professor David Dilks, of Leeds University, on the Conservative Collegiate Forum.

The forum, to be chaired by Mr Peter Morrison, deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, will also include 12 students leaders representing all parts of the country, and Mr John Bercow, the former FCS chairman.

Yesterday, Lord Beloff, Professor Emeritus at Oxford University and first principal

of Buckingham University, who tried to act as a peacemaker in the confrontation between the FCS radicals and party hierarchy, said he saw himself as a "grandfather" figure building bridges across the generation gap.

The forum's main task, he thought, was to recapture the academic high ground for Conservative ideas, a position lost since 1979 under the impact of financial stringency, retirements and defections to the SDP.

"We need a new network among dons, lecturers and so

forth and to act as sounding board for party policy. The students have remained numerically very effective and active, but because the central leadership fell into the hands of extremists, there was chaos.

"The thing is to rebuild proper lines of communication between the party at the centre and local branches."

After the "outrageous" slur against Lord Stockton in an FCS magazine, it was "inevitable" that the body be disbanded, he said.

Mr Bercow said that in addition to the academics, the

forum would include the "best" of the former FCS branch chairmen to "emphasize the broad-based character of Conservatism".

It would concentrate on campaigning on the campuses, policy formation, especially in the areas of further and higher education, and extending Tory influence within the academic circles.

"We shall not be distracted by personal bickering and the pursuit of fetishes", a clear reference to the factional infighting that dogged the FCS.

Dons' threat of disruptive action over pay dispute

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

Disrupted lectures and the withholding of examination marks in Britain's 46 universities could affect students in higher education after a vote yesterday by the Association of University Teachers to begin a programme of industrial action in the new year.

Members of the association's national council decided on the move at a meeting in Birmingham after an inconclusive meeting earlier in the week with Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education.

Much now depends on a further meeting with Mr Baker scheduled for mid-January. If the association comes away empty-handed its members will be balloted on strike action at the end of the month, which, if approved, would begin to affect campuses in early February.

Yesterday, the second largest teaching union also gave a resounding "no" to the rival pay and conditions deals proposed by the local education authorities and the Government.

In a low turnout of 41 per cent, members of the National Union of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers rejected by 41,994 votes to 5,178 the employers' package agreed at the conciliation service, Acas, and rebuffed Mr Baker by rejecting his proposed settlement by an even bigger margin of 44,691 to 2,403.

The university lecturers are demanding a phased pay deal

of 25 per cent over two years. University dons have already consented in principle to a system of staff appraisal and other reforms demanded by the Government, and are frustrated with Mr Baker, who, they believe, is dragging his heels on a pay settlement which has been delayed.

A request for an interim pay rise of 6 per cent, pending a final settlement, was rejected last week by vice-chancellors.

The general secretary of the association, Miss Diana Warwick, said after yesterday's meeting: "As Mr Baker has not responded to our recent negotiations, members believe that he will be moved only by disruptive industrial action and that is the path they feel they must now follow."

● The three academic advisers to Ruskin College, Oxford, have presented Mr George Walden, Under Secretary of State for Education, with a formula to avoid academic freedom designed to avoid a repetition of the dispute involving the former politics lecturer, Mr David Selbourne.

Mr Walden said yesterday that he would be studying the document "very closely", but reiterated the point he has made to the college previously that there could be no compromise on the issue of freedom for academics.

Students boycotted Mr Selbourne's lectures after he wrote an article for *The Times* in March. He is suing Ruskin for constructive dismissal and damages.



Sir Peter Hall, artistic director of the National Theatre, calling for a public outcry against cuts in government spending on the arts yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Hall sees political battle on arts cash

Sir Peter Hall emerged last night as the most outspoken critic of the Government's arts funding policy, after bearing the allocation of cash for next year.

At a briefing in his National Theatre office, he said: "I don't think the Government would mind if one of the national companies closed. My view is that they want to see the theatres closed, or diminished, or privatized."

"Our only defence is in the political arena, to prove to the Government that there are votes in the arts just as there are in education, and if you muck up our heritage, ruin our traditions, and wreck our tourist industry, people will mind."

He repeated his call for a national protest campaign, saying: "The Arts Council

Anderton censured on Aids speech

By Ian Smith

Labour-controlled Greater Manchester Police Authority has demanded that its Chief Constable, Mr James Anderton, retract his claim that Aids is a "holy judgement on a human cesspit swirling in sin".

After a stormy discussion members, who each had a full text of the speech delivered by Mr Anderton to police officers at an Aids seminar eight days ago, agreed he had exceeded his acceptable bounds of responsibility.

By 21 votes to 20 they supported a four-point demand made by Manchester City Council that Mr Anderton retract his speech, that the authority be dissociated from his "homophobic" views, that they pursue moves to take disciplinary measures against Mr Anderton that they reiterate their backing of the government campaign to counteract the Aids menace.

Members also decided to hold an Aids seminar to counteract the damage they felt had been inflicted by Mr Anderton.

The chairman of the policy committee, Mr Tony McArdell, spoke of the inflammatory speech made by Mr Anderton which would do nothing but harm to politicians' attempts to prevent the spread of a killer virus.

But after the meeting an unapologetic Mr Anderton spoke of the "message of God" which had spurred him to make the speech which has inflamed public opinion.

"The speech was not prepared but jotted down in notes I made while being driven to the seminar. I was moved by the spirit of God to say what I did and I will not retract a single word."

Prevented from expanding on his comments during the authority meeting, Mr Anderton added later: "They stage-managed the situation to prevent me speaking and likened me to Adolf Hitler without allowing me to reply."

"I think they were afraid of what I was going to say but they are so wrong ... I have never felt such peace of mind in my life before and when the time comes for me to speak further I will be driven by even greater conviction and motivation."

TV staff vote to strike over pay

By Tim Jones

Live programmes on BBC television will be seriously disrupted in the new year after a ballot decision yesterday by 600 electricians to withdraw their labour from midnight on January 3.

The electricians, who are responsible for lighting, voted by a 3-1 majority for industrial action which they hope will resolve a pay and differentials argument which has been simmering for three years.

At one stage the men, members of the Electrical, Electronic Telecommunication and Plumbing Union had threatened to begin their industrial action before Christmas.

But after their shop stewards had met yesterday they decided that such a move would lose them public sympathy. A statement issued by the union said: "The EETPU have been anxious to avoid any action which would affect the viewing public during Christmas and the new year."

The statement recognized that television, during the holiday period, is especially important to elderly and sick people.

The union blamed the Corporation for the breakdown of talks. Mr Harry Hughes, a union executive member, said: "Our argument is with the management and not with the general public and we are doing our best to minimize the effect on the viewers."

When the same argument was raised last year, the union voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action, but then agreed to return to the negotiating table.

One reason for the dispute is that differentials were eroded three years ago when scene shifters received a 20 per cent pay rise.

But the union also claims that the basic pay of £8,000 at the BBC is much less than for electricians in other parts of the industry. At ITV, the union says, their members receive £2 an hour more for doing the same job.

EETPU members employed by lighting contractors have said they will refuse to undertake any extra work and other unions have also said they will not undertake any extra duties.

Live shows, sport and new programmes will be particularly affected by the dispute.

Police

Police

Police

Police

Police

Police

Ruling on plastic bullets

Northumbria Police Authority yesterday failed in its High Court challenge to the power of the Home Secretary to supply Chief Constables with plastic bullets and CS gas without the prior consent of local police authorities.

Two judges ruled in a test case that the Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, has a prerogative to supply such equipment.

Mr Justice Mann, sitting with Lord Justice Watkins, said: "The decision whether or not to use the equipment supplied by the Secretary of State is for the chief constable alone to make". He said the court's judgement related to supply, not to use, which was the responsibility of chief constables.

Northumbria Police Authority had sought a declaration that the Home Secretary had no legal power to issue plastic baton rounds or CS gas to chief constables without the consent of the local police authority, "save in a situation of grave emergency".

The authority, backed by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, launched its High Court challenge following the issue of Home Office Circular 40 in May this year, which proposed setting up a central store of plastic bullets, CS gas and other equipment from which any police force could withdraw items on obtaining the approval of HM Inspector of Constabulary.

Mr Justice Mann said the availability to a chief constable of "suitable equipment" ought not to depend on judicial review, as the authority had argued, unless there was a compelling reason.

It had been argued by Mr Desmond Keene, QC, for the Home Secretary, that the Home Secretary's prerogative had been removed by the introduction of the 1964 Police Act.

Correction

Mr Russell Proffitt was not short-listed for the vacant post of Director of Education of the London borough of Brent as implied in our report, "Baker ordered Brent to drop 'racism' case", on December 13.

Correction

By Paul Vahidy

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Scotland close to settlement

An end to the two-year Scottish teachers' dispute looks likely in the new year.

The main unions appear certain to ballot their members with the recommendation that they approve the latest deal discussed with local authority employers and the Government.

Reports drawn up by two working parties established after an overwhelming rejection of the Government's initial package, were yesterday approved by the employers' and teachers' sides.

Last night, the executive of the Educational Institute of Scotland, the country's largest teaching union, voted 21 to six in favour of a recommendation that the deal should be accepted.

The settlement proposed by yesterday's meeting of the Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee is based on the original two-stage, 16.4 per cent pay offer.

The report on conditions of service suggests that teachers take on an additional 80 hours in the school and working year to cover curricular development, parent-teacher meetings and in-service training.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, a Conservative member

£27m extra on publicity bill

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A senior Commons select committee is to convene a special meeting on the first working day after the Christmas break to discover why the department that publicizes the Government's work has been authorized to spend an extra £27 million on top of its £70 million annual budget.

The 35 per cent increase to the Central Office of Information's 1986/87 cash limit slipped through without debate when the Commons approved a series of winter supplementary estimates last Monday.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, a Conservative member

The fall of Nimrod

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The Royal Air Force was last night trying to decide what to do with the 11 odd-shaped aircraft with which it had planned to mount a constant patrol of British airspace.

The 11 Nimrod AEW Mark 3s were converted at a cost of more than £200 million by British Aerospace at Woodford near Manchester, ready to house the radar which, in the end, did not work.

But with their huge bulbous noses and rear they are now completely useless in their present shape. The probability is that they will once again have to go back to Woodford to have the radomes removed, and be re-converted either into flying fuel tankers, maritime patrol aircraft or replacements for the Canberra electronic warfare training aircraft.

Whatever is decided, the Ministry of Defence will have to spend several hundred mil-

GEC fears damage by break-up of its team

By Ronald Faax, Employment Affairs Correspondent

GEC Avionics, the company that lost the £900 million airborne radar contract to Boeing, now fears a damaging loss of its best technicians employed on the Nimrod project.

The group of 1,500 electronics specialists which developed the Nimrod early warning system is one of the most advanced technology teams in the world.

Competitors of GEC in Britain, Europe and America are likely to place a high value on their skills. They include radar technicians, signal processing technicians and software specialists who were able to produce what one GEC scientist described as a unique blend of expertise.

"They have that especially British approach to solving problems, the Barnes Wallis sack of an envelope solution rather than throwing moun-

RAF is left with costly but useless aircraft

lion pounds in yet more work on the aircraft.

The Nimrod, a straight derivative of the civilian Comet airliner, was first built in 1969 as the Mark 1 maritime patrol craft. When production closed down in 1976 a total of 49 had been built for the RAF and already many of them were back in the Woodford factory being upgraded into the more sophisticated Mark 2 patrol aircraft with computers 50 times more efficient than in the Mark 1 version.

Then, in 1977 Marconi, as it then was, was given the contract to provide the electronic equipment for the Mark 3 version - the centre of the recent controversy. The only aircraft then capable of carrying the electronics was thought to be the original Nimrod Mark 1, in service with the RAF. So 11 were taken back

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Two Sikhs found guilty of plotting to murder Gandhi

The Sikh ringleader and an accomplice in a plot to assassinate Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, during his official visit to Britain 15 months ago, were found guilty at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday of conspiracy to murder.

Jarnail Singh Ranuana, aged 46, the former owner of a cash and carry store, who led the conspiracy, and Sukvinder Singh Gill, aged 30, a dyer, both of Leicester, will be sentenced today.

They were convicted of conspiring to murder Mr Gandhi and soliciting two undercover policemen to kill the Indian prime minister. Ranuana was also convicted of possessing a .38 Smith and Wesson revolver and supplying heroin.

The jury deliberated for 18 hours and spent two nights in an hotel before unanimously

Police help informer to hide

The underworld informer who tipped off detectives about a plot by British Sikhs to assassinate Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, has gone into hiding, with police help.

Police said that the informer's life had been threatened after he warned them that militant Sikhs planned to murder Mr Gandhi during his official visit to England in October 1985.

The tip-off led to the arrest of several Sikhs in Leicester, including the "ringleader", Jarnail Singh Ranuana, aged 46, who was fooled by an elaborate police undercover operation.

He was said to have received inside information from the Indian High Commission in London about Mr Gandhi's itinerary, including meetings with the Prime Minister and the Prince of Wales. But, the two "IRA gunmen" Ranuana tried to hire for £60,000 to carry out the assassination were undercover policemen.

In the trial at Birmingham Crown Court, the defence accused the policemen of acting as *agent provocateurs* to encourage a crime that otherwise would not have been

convicting Ranuana after a trial lasting nine weeks.

Two hours later it convicted Gill on a 10 to one majority verdict. One juror was missing because of illness.

A third Sikh, Parmatma Singh Marwaha, aged 44, a jeans manufacturer from Leicester, and British treasurer of the International Sikh Youth Federation, was found not guilty of conspiracy and soliciting.

Marwaha sagged as the not guilty verdict was returned and in the street outside there were emotional scenes as he hugged turbaned supporters and said, through his solicitor: "I am so pleased to be freed."

Mr Justice McCullough said he would consider the question of deportation when passing sentence today on Gill, who came to Britain in 1978 and is still an Indian national.

Gill, a father of two and a member of the youth federa-

Police help informer to hide

committed, Counsel said that it was "set-up" by the "unscrupulous" informer, who was awaiting trial on serious charges and wanted a soft sentence in return for helping the police.

Mr Justice McCullough ruled that the informer's real name and the identities of the policemen should remain secret because of fears for their safety. The policemen were referred to as Tom Band Jan S and the informer as John.

When Tom B met Ranuana he pretended to be the IRA killer of Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland killed by a bomb at the Commons in 1979.

The police bugged a room at the Post House Hotel, Leicester, where Tom B met Ranuana.

He told Ranuana: "I want you to understand you are asking me to terminate a head of state. You are not talking about some simple crime, but the biggest form of criminal offence a man can get caught up in."

Police doubts about Ranuana's plan disappeared when he produced a shortened .38 Smith and Wesson revolver and 17 rounds of



Chimps go for bubbly at party

Jolly, an expert tea-drinker, discarded her cup for champagne yesterday to celebrate 30 years of chimpanzee television commercials.

The one-hundredth television advertisement for Brooke Bond, in what is thought to be Britain's longest-running campaign, is to be shown on Boxing Day.

The PG Tips chimpanzees have been appearing on television since 1956, acting as yachtsmen, removal men, Tour de France cyclists, and even as James Bond, the spy fiction character, introducing himself with the words: "My name is Bond - Brooke Bond."

The chimps' champagne party, held at the London Weekend Television studios, included five former voices from the series: Peter Jones, Kenneth Connor, Robin Bailey, John Junkin and Cass Alton.

Robin Bailey said yesterday: "I find it a great privilege to work with chimps: they are so full of life and character." His voice is used in one of the newest advertisements, showing a chimpanzee as a retired bank manager.

John Junkin, whose voice is heard in a number of the advertisements, served the champagne to Jolly, and said: "She certainly seems to like it."

Miss Molly Badham, director of Twycroft Zoo, Jolly's home in Leicestershire, said: "Our chimps really do adore tea, but they drink it in buckets, not in cups."

Twycroft used to provide all the PG Tips chimpanzees, but yesterday Mr Tony Toller, a scriptwriter, said that the latest series of advertisements was filmed in Italy using Italian chimpanzees.

Triple swap woman 'stable'

Mrs Davina Thompson, the world's first triple transplant patient, showed signs of regaining consciousness yesterday, two days after the operation in which she was given a new heart, lungs and liver.

She is said to be in a "satisfactory and stable" condition, still at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, where the operation was performed.

It could be a few days before Mrs Thompson fully regains consciousness.

All non-urgent operations were cancelled yesterday at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, where a dangerous bacteria, resistant to antibiotics, has infected four patients in the intensive care unit.

The bacteria known as MRSA - or Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus - is a wound infection which affects patients who have undergone severe surgical procedures. "It could delay their recovery and can be quite dangerous if it is not treated properly as the patients are very weak," the hospital unit's general manager, Mr David Astley, said.

A man aged 22, and his mother, are recovering in Cardiff Royal Infirmary after he was given one of her kidneys in a three-hour operation yesterday.

Mrs Joyce Riddell said she could not stand watching her son, Mr Jeff Jones, suffering any longer from his kidney disease.

Search of moors is abandoned for winter

Bad weather has forced police to call off their operation on Saddleworth Moor in Greater Manchester, where they have been searching for the bodies of further victims of the moors murderers, Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, for the past four weeks.

As blizzards swept the search area, yesterday, the man leading the hunt for the bodies of two missing children, Det Chief Supt Peter Topping, said that when they returned, in the spring, they would start digging at places pointed out by Myra Hindley who had been allowed out of jail recently to assist the search.

The decision to call off the operation came as the key witness in the trial of Hindley and Brady, more than 20 years ago, was brought back to Saddleworth Moor to help police in the search.

Hindley's former brother-in-law, Mr David Smith, aged 38, who called police in after watching Edward Evans, aged 17, being axed to death by Brady, was driven over the moor, in an unmarked police car, after spending half an hour talking to Mr Topping in the search incident room.

Mr Topping said: "His visit has been useful. Just exactly what he has done I am not prepared to discuss."

Mr Smith, who often accompanied the pair on to the moor above Oldham as a teenager, was driven slowly past Hollin Brown Knoll, near where the bodies of Leslie Ann Downey, aged 10, and John Kilbridge, aged 12, were found in shallow graves.

The area is believed to have been the second identified by Hindley during her visit from Cookham Wood Prison on Tuesday, when she spent seven hours on the moor.

Portfolio Gold - Solace for parking ticket

A teacher of English was the sole winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mrs Christine Catchpole, aged 41, from Forest Row in East Sussex, has played the Portfolio Gold game for the past 10 months.

"It is quite unbelievable," she said. "At first everything conspired against me. The newspaper did not deliver *The Times* this morning, so I had to look for another copy while on a shopping trip in Eastbourne.

"But before I had time to check my numbers, I received a £14 traffic ticket. So I still can't believe I have won," she said.

When asked how she intended spending the prize money, Mrs Catchpole said: "Apart from paying the parking fine, I'll now be able to buy all the Christmas presents I had dreamed about."

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.

Jasmine case social worker wins damages

The social worker who lost her job for "gross misconduct" in the Jasmine Beckford case was unfairly dismissed by Brent Council, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

But Mrs Diane Dietmann will not be reinstated by Brent Social Services, because she did not immediately challenge her dismissal.

Mr Justice Hodgson ruled that she had thereby accepted it. He awarded her damages for wrongful dismissal which will amount to 16 weeks' wages.

The judge said that Mrs Dietmann, of Tudor Well Close, Stanmore, north-west London, was "deeply shocked" when she was dismissed in December last year after an inquiry report which accused her of gross negligence.

He said that while gross negligence may be the same as gross misconduct in law, he could not say the same for her contract, which allowed dismissal only for gross misconduct.

Brent council is considering an appeal.

Drug may fight side effects

A drug is being developed which could transform treatments for mental disorders such as schizophrenia and anxiety and prove effective against the side effects of nausea and vomiting linked with cancer treatment.

First details of the drug, developed by Glaxo under the code name, GR38032F, were reported yesterday at the British Pharmaceutical Society meeting in London.

The company emphasizes that the compound is at a very early stage of development, but says it may prove a milestone in the treatment of diseases of the central nervous system.

Present treatments for anxiety including drugs such as Valium, often have marked side-effects including sedation and addiction.

With schizophrenia, drugs often provoke a Parkinson's reaction, with severe shakiness and non-ordinated movements.

Anti-cancer drugs, particularly cisplatin cause distressing nausea and vomiting.

The new compound, which is based on a synthetic compound of "unique molecular structure" is the result of 10 years of research.

Tests on animals started in 1983 and the company has started clinical trials on humans, but it will take several years before it is known whether the achievements indicated by the animal research can be realized in humans.

Glaxo researchers claim that they have discovered for the first time a sub-type of 5-hydroxytryptamine receptors. The new compound blocks these receptors and one result is a fine tuning of other major neurotransmitter systems that affect physiological functions.

Animal studies have shown that GR38032F can control overactivity in the brain system, thought to be responsible for symptoms of schizophrenia.

Signs of success in war on heroin

The United Kingdom is on course to turn back the heroin tide, according to Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office.

Addict notifications have shown a smaller increase and customs and excise provisional figures for 1986, to be released next month, will indicate heroin seizures have been significantly lower than in 1985.

The purity of heroin seized when entering the country has fallen, while street prices show a slight rise.

"Taken together," Mr Mellor said, "these separate indicators may well mean some reduction in the availability of heroin here. At the same time some treatment agencies are beginning to report a levelling off in heroin referrals."

During the first year of the Government's anti-heroin advertising, independent evaluation has found that the proportion of young people who said they would reject an offer of heroin has risen from 83 per cent to 94 per cent.

"None of this means we can afford to be complacent," Mr Mellor said. He was commenting on figures for notified addicts in the UK in 1985, published yesterday. They meant that while the fight against heroin was far from

Loft cash will be restricted to the needy

The Government yesterday announced a widespread cut-back in its roof insulation scheme (One Property Correspondent writes).

Mr John Patten, Housing Minister, said in a written Commons reply that legislation on insulation grants would restrict them to people on benefit and end the present general 66 per cent grant.

Mr Patten announced, however, that a further £1.5 million was being made available this financial year for English councils which have already used up their allocations.

He said that almost 90 per cent of the accessible roofs in England were now insulated.

Police to visit mother of girl found strangled

Murder squad detectives investigating the strangulation of a girl aged seven are expected to interview her mother at Skegness, Lincolnshire, today in an attempt to find a motive for the killing.

Nicola Spencer was found dead at a flat in Grosvenor Road, Skegness, by a male friend of her mother, Christine, who was out drinking.

A post mortem examination yesterday by Home Office pathologist Professor Alan

Usher showed the cause of death, but further tests were being carried out to establish if she had been sexually assaulted.

The girl was left on her own asleep shortly before 9pm on Thursday. A friend of the mother returned less than two hours later to fetch an inhaler and found the girl dead.

Det Supt Tom Coates, head of North Lincolnshire CID, said: "At this stage I can't say whether a weapon was used"

Happier 'holy hour' for Ireland's drinkers

Theologians have long taken account of the possibility that the Irish, for all their piety, misunderstood the parable of the repentant publican.

The licensees of Dublin, it must be admitted, have for the past 60 years been religious in their observance of the "holy hour", the time of rest between three and four o'clock in the afternoon when they have retired behind their shutters and refused to serve alcohol to anyone.

Whether the discrepancy between this and the Vatican's somewhat more prayerful notion of a Holy Hour has been pointed out to the Irish government is not clear. At any rate it has now decided to abandon it.

Moves to liberalize drinking conditions in the Irish Republic, in an attempt to make the country more attractive to tourists, were outlined by Dr Garrett FitzGerald's government in a national plan two years ago.

The new measure will affect the drinkers of Cork as well as Dublin. Elsewhere in the republic the hour (which naturally enough lasted for two hours on Sunday) is not observed. But the entire nation will be affected by plans to allow public houses and bars to stay open until midnight during the summer months.

In a sop to potential protesters, the government has said that it will also be tightening regulations against under age drinking. The measure detailing the reforms, the Intoxicating Liquor Bill, is expected to go through parliament without serious opposition.

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QE2 NEWCOMERS CRUISES 1987

Two devised blind spot for computer fraud pack

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

An anonymous tip-off two years ago led customs investigators to two men who yesterday received suspended sentences for the first computerized VAT fraud to be detected in the EEC.

But for that information the secret ingredient in an otherwise innocent stock-taking and accounting software system called Movieman might have cost the Treasury millions.

Raymond Atkinson, aged 38, a certified accountant, of Deacons Bank, Wessington, Derbyshire, and Geoffrey Allsop, aged 42, a systems analyst, of Menor View, Wessington, both admitted conspiracy to incite the commission of false accounting.

They were each given nine months' jail sentences suspended for two years and each fined £1,000.

Judge Davidson told them at Derby Crown Court: "I am bound to treat fraud of this kind as a very serious matter."

"It is very easy to see in this age of potential electronic fraud that devices could be placed into future programmes that could result in very substantial losses to the public purse and enrich those involved."

The two were convicted for developing a secret "patch" within the system which allowed a customer to hide part of what he earned each day so that VAT inspectors, auditors and the Inland Revenue were given a false impression of earnings.

When customs investigators working on the investigation, codenamed Operation Patchwork, moved in last year, only 12 retailers were using the secret system, defrauding about £100,000, but the potential for greater damage existed.

Investigators believe that Movieman is an eugery of future fraud, Mr Michael Newsom, a senior customs officer, said: "We think this case is typical of the type of fraud we will be facing in the computer age."

"In the past fraudsters used a little black book to record their fraudulent dealings. Today the computer can be used."

The case, he said, had

opened up a new area and "brings us with a jolt into the computer fraud age".

Movieman was born in the offices of a small computer firm called Micro-computer Services, based at Alfreton, Derbyshire.

Williams, an accountant, ran the sales side of the business while Allsop was involved in computer techniques. A graduate, he was trained in computers by British Rail at Derby before moving into his own work.

The two men put together a software package aimed at video recording hire shops. The package, priced at about £5,000 gave shops a system which kept stock records, monitored the hire of films and noted accounts. The retailer could tell which were his most successful films and who were his best customers.

Many of the 120 firms who bought the package were not told about the extra facility that lay within the package. The computer firm's salesmen - given immunity against prosecution by the crown - were told to bring the secret feature into play if they had a susceptible customer or a sale might be lost.

The suppression feature came into play when a user was consulting the computer menu for reporting sales. Using one password the user would be given a true record of the day's sales. A second password brought the suppression factor into play.

Customs investigators were alerted in November 1984. The tip came from someone who had heard the packages being offered. Routine VAT inspections were mounted on retailers using the package and investigators took one of the packages for examination by a special computer audit unit.

It took them two weeks to break through the code which kept fraudulent information locked away.

In February last year 80 customs officers and computer experts carried out a series of raids on video hire shops and the computer firm. Nine companies using the fraudulent system were dealt with by customs commissioners without going to court. They were fined a total of £34,487.

Ex-MI5 chief wins damages for book libel

Mr Charles Simkins, a former deputy director general of MI5, won libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that he leaked secrets to Nigel West, the author.

The allegations were made by another author, Phillip Knightley, in his book on spying, *The Second Oldest Profession*.

Mr Desmond Browne, for Mr Simkins, told Mr Justice Drake that he was asked after he retired to prepare a history of security during the last war for the Cabinet. Mr Knightley suggested that he was hitler about it not being published generally and had got together with Mr West, and leaked a copy of his manuscript. That was untrue, the court was told. Mr Simkins had not met Mr West and had not given him any first hand knowledge of MI5's activities. Mr Knightley and his publishers acknowledged the allegations were mistaken and agreed to apologize and pay undisclosed damages and legal costs.

Ex-Beatle in court victory over £260,000

The former Beatle, Ringo Starr, won a court battle yesterday which will save him paying almost £260,000 extra maintenance to his former wife, Maureen, from whom she was divorced in 1975.

The Court of Appeal in London overruled a High Court order, made in July, back-dating an increase in the musician's annual maintenance payments to April 1979.

Lords Justices Pehamas, Neill and Balcombe held that £70,000 a year - £1,346 a week - was not an unreasonable figure to expect. The musician had "behaved with outstanding generosity and patience towards his wife."

However, they ruled that the increase - £26,000 higher than the annual £44,000 he had been paying since 1981 and £47,000 higher than his original maintenance order of £23,000 - should be back-dated only to April this year.

The decision means that he faces a back payment of about £19,500.



Phil Mardia, a stonecarver from Guildford, Surrey, surrounded by grinning gargoyles in the English Heritage workshop at Vauxhall, south London, where 18 of the medieval carved figures, each with individual features, are being produced by the Property Services Agency for the Edward III tower at Windsor Castle, to replace the badly weathered originals (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Two freed on drugs charges

Two men accused of being drug suppliers walked free from court yesterday after allegations of corruption were made against a senior Scotland Yard detective.

Michael West and James O'Loughlin were arrested while allegedly trying to set up a cocaine deal to trap a drugs pusher. They claimed the operation was organized with undercover police to trap a cocaine dealer called "Diego" who was said to have disappeared after their arrest.

During the trial at Southwark Crown Court it was claimed that Mr West and Mr O'Loughlin were set up by Scotland Yard's senior operational detective, Det Supt Anthony Lundy.

Less than a month ago Det Supt Lundy was the subject of corruption allegations made during a television documentary. He is now being investigated by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire about his relationship with a "supergrass" called Roy Garner.

Yesterday the jury took two hours to return unanimous not guilty verdicts on Mr West and Mr O'Loughlin who each denied possessing a total of 2.6 kilograms of cocaine, with intent to supply, on November 27 last year.

During the trial, defence counsel for Mr West, Mr Michael West, QC, claimed another "supergrass" controlled by Mr Lundy had first introduced the idea of the drug deal trap for "Diego".

Mr West and Mr O'Loughlin were to arrange a deal, with undercover police officers posing as buyers, to establish their credentials.

The undercover detectives were wired with tape recorders and the deal was captured on video cameras.

Mr West's counsel told the jury that the video tapes and transcripts had been edited in an attempt to convict Mr West and Mr O'Loughlin.

Mr West, QC, told the court that his client and Mr O'Loughlin, who were both on remand in Wormwood Scrubs Prison, were visited four times by an informer called Geoffrey Stack, who worked with Mr Lundy and proposed the trap.

Mr Lundy denied the allegation. He told the court: "I have never met Stack - and wouldn't know him if he walked in now."

Referring to the television documentary Mr West, QC, said: "The accusations in that programme involved your handling of informers. You have split the Metropolitan Police force straight down the middle, between those who believe in you and those who believe you are a thoroughly corrupt officer."

Abortion advice Court rules against clinics

Two clinics offering advice to women seeking abortions in Britain are acting illegally, the High Court in Dublin ruled yesterday.

The first test case brought since a clause forbidding abortion was inserted into the constitution ended with two Dublin clinics being told to cease their counselling services from January 12 next year.

The ruling, by Mr Justice Hamilton, president of the High Court, is to be challenged, on appeal, in the Supreme Court by the clinics, who said that the decision was a "sad day in the history of Irish women".

In a 90-minute reserved judgement, the judge backed the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children who brought the case, arguing that the clinics were acting contrary to Irish law which, under section 40 of the written constitution, guarantees the right to life of the unborn.

Mr Justice Hamilton said he was satisfied that Open Door Counselling and the Well Woman Centre were flouting the constitution by giving information to pregnant women about abortion clinics operating in Britain.

"There can be no doubt but that abortion is contrary to national policy, public morality and to the law. The court is under a duty to act to ensure that rights such as the fundamental right to life are protected and to regard as unlawful any attempt to interfere with that right."

During a four-day hearing two months ago, the society said the clinics procured and assisted pregnant women to travel abroad for abortions and that they advised clients to consider a termination as a solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancy. These actions, they claimed, amounted to a "conspiracy to corrupt public morals".

The clinics, which see up to 1,000 pregnant women a year, denied counselling them to go abroad for abortions and said they were constitutionally entitled to give a non-directed counselling service.

The case was the first thorough testing of the constitutional amendment forbidding abortion, which was passed by a two to one majority in 1983.

Miss Ruth Riddick, of Open Door Counselling, said afterwards: "I believe the service we provide for Irish women is needed. There would not be a demand for it if it was not required. One of the problems about this judgement is that it sweeps a social problem under the carpet."

Yesterday's judgement came 24 hours after the European Court of Human Rights said the lack of provision for divorce and remarriage in the republic did not mean it was in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. But the republic was found to be in breach of the convention because of the inferior legal status given to the children of unmarried parents.

Hospital's gain from extra fund

Guy's Hospital, beset by financial difficulties for the past two years, is likely to be one of the first beneficiaries of the £30 million fund set up by the Government to help London regions.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday that he had approved a £55 million new building development at the south London teaching hospital and interim arrangements to provide services until it comes into operation in 1994.

The arrangements, which include a 12-bed observation unit and day surgery facilities, are expected to cost £300,000 and be paid for out of the special fund and open early next year.

These will provide vital transitional services so that the closure of another acute hospital in the district, New Cross, can go ahead in May. Lewisham and North Southwark Health Authority has planned to concentrate all acute beds on Guy's and Lewisham, dispensing with 358 beds at New Cross.

The new £35 million phase at Guy's will include 275 beds and 90 day places and include a range of supporting departments, teaching and research facilities.

Guy's unit general manager, Mr Nigel Smith, said yesterday that it would do little to resolve the district's financial difficulties, which were largely a result of treating more patients with the same number of beds.

Although allocations to regional health authorities have not been announced, South East Thames Regional Health Authority is confident that it will receive the £300,000 revenue needed to fund the interim services at Guy's and similar observation and day surgery units at neighbouring Lewisham hospital.

Boy killed bully after £15 threat

The victim of a school bully finally snapped and stabbed to death his tormentor, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Simon Lundy, aged 17, was sentenced to five years' youth custody after admitting the manslaughter of Robert Tucker last July. His plea of not guilty to murder was accepted after the judge was told that Lundy had been provoked.

Both boys attended King Harold School at Waltham Abbey, Essex. "Tucker used to bully the defendant, taking money from him," Mr Timothy Langdale, for the prosecution, said.

At first it was 70p a day lunch money but later Tucker was demanding up to £20, threatening violence.

The day before the stabbing Tucker demanded £15. Lundy, of Rockford Avenue, Waltham Abbey, could not raise the amount. He took a knife when he went to meet Tucker the next day, Lundy's birthday.

"He was very nervous. Tucker told him he was going to sort him out. Lundy lunged forward with the knife. The boy died in hospital from two stab wounds, in the chest and stomach."

Mr Justice Allott, passing sentence, said: "You did a wicked and terrible thing killing someone who may have got over this unattractive aspect of his character and lived a useful life."

Ministry wins test case on trespass

Magistrates who held that Ministry of Defence by-laws aimed at preventing trespass on the United States Air Force base at Mildenhall, Suffolk, had no legal validity were overruled by the High Court yesterday.

The test case involved by-laws introduced by Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Secretary of State for Defence, to outlaw protests at Mildenhall and other military bases throughout the country.

Allowing an appeal by Ministry of Defence police, two judges ordered the magistrates to convict Mr John Bugg, aged 49, of entering a protected area in April "other than by way of an authorized entrance", contrary to the by-laws.

Mr Justice Mann said the magistrates decided in July that Mr Bugg, a former policeman, of St Paul's Road, Walton Heath, near Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was not guilty of an offence because the prosecution had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the by-laws were valid.

He said the correct approach was for by-laws to be presumed valid until a defendant showed that they were not.

The magistrates had wrongly accepted Mr Bugg's argument that the by-laws were invalid.

Mr Bugg, an individual rights campaigner, had gone on to the base in a deliberate attempt to prove that he had the right to do so.

Blowing conch earns jail term for Bermudan

Thomas Joe Benjamin's habit of blowing on a conch shell to call a meeting of his friends in Brixton market earned him a seven-day jail sentence yesterday.

Two High Court judges upheld the Inner London Crown Court's ruling that Benjamin must go to prison if he refused to consent to being bound over to the keep the peace.

Benjamin, a Bermudan-born community worker, decided that he had no intention of giving up the practice. For two years, up to November 17, 1984, he had been in the habit of going to the market and blowing his conch shell.

Although he was acquitted of an alleged assault on the police, said after his arrest, the judge at Inner London Crown Court jailed him for seven days for refusing to be bound over. The High Court judges offered him 48 hours to decide whether to promise to keep the peace, an offer he rejected.

Benjamin, who was in his fourth day of custody, was freed yesterday because the sentence amounts to five days with remission, and because the prison has no facilities to release prisoners this Saturday.

Judge retires

Tough justice with a lenient streak

By Frances Gihh, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Justice "Fred" Lawton, one of the last of the tough "no nonsense" school of judges feared by hardened criminals, retired yesterday.

More than 40 judges and barristers crowded his courtroom to pay tribute to the grammar school boy who rose to become a senior Court of Appeal judge after being appointed one of the youngest High Court judges at the age of 49.

It was the first time that the two divisions, criminal and civil, of the Court of Appeal had sat together and the occasion was marked by the presence, among many other judges, of the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice and the Attorney General.

But the atmosphere yesterday was far from serious. Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, likened Lord Justice Lawton, aged 75, to a Labrador, in which the retiring judge responded that Labrador with dicky hips were usually put down.

The son of a prison governor - his father was a prison officer and the

crossed his path. He added: "One is ashamed to live in a society that contains men like you."

He has also been well known for robust views on sentencing: in 1971 he called for a national labour corps in which offenders would undertake jobs such as clearing industrial debris. Again, in 1978, he recommended "short, sharp shocks" for young offenders, perhaps in disused Army camps, so they could learn that "bad behaviour results in unpleasant consequences". Nor has he much time for the theories of social workers and penal reformers or what he has called "cosy chats with probation officers".

"Clap-trap" was how he described a psychiatric report on a youth who tried to escape from the High Court in 1979. The youth had an appalling record and had to be dealt with severely, he said.

But the judge has an unexpected reformist streak, and has long ago discarded the political views that almost led him to stand as a Mosleyite candidate in the thirties. He favours non-custodial penalties where possible.

Under his chairmanship, the Criminal Law Revision Committee called for radical reforms, many now in force, to the law on sexual offences. These included a measure against kerb crawling, living off organized prostitution, to extend the law of rape to separated husbands and wives and to increase penalties for attempted rape and indecent assault.

Lord Justice Lawton, a large man with thickset features and a measured style of delivery well suited to anecdotes, of which he is fond, did not like most other judges, go to public school. He went to Battersea Grammar School before going on to Cambridge University. He was called to the Bar in 1935, served in the war with the London Irish Rifles until he was invalided out in 1941, resumed his career and took silk in 1957. He was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 1972.

The judge is likely to be in great demand helping out as retired judges do on civil and criminal appeals, where he will be sitting as Sir Fred Lawton.



Lord Justice Lawton, who retired yesterday

error of Wandsworth - he has often been labelled a "hanging judge". But his toughness against violent criminals has always been tempered by leniency and concern for lesser offenders.

Sending down Charles Richardson for 25 years in 1967, the then Mr Justice Lawton said the south London judge was "vicious, sadistic and a disgrace to society" for the way he

December 19 1986 PARLIAMENT

Indian minister's bribe hint

Mr Terence Dicks (Hayes and Harlington, C) said he had been asked for a bribe by the Indian Home Affairs Minister, Mr Bala Singh, when he visited India to try to help a constituent, Mrs Kuldip Kanu, who, he said, had been imprisoned on trumped-up charges.

He had been made to feel as if he had asked for an audience with the Lord and the Minister's opening words to him were: "Have you something for me? A gift?" He had pretended not to know what the minister was talking about and the interview effectively ended then. The Minister had promised to look into the case, about which he claimed to know nothing, and to contact Mr Dicks. He had not done so.

Mrs Kanu's husband, Professor Paul Bedi, was the first Sikh to be elected chairman of the Anglo-Asian Conservative Society in Britain (which was dissolved today). There had been anger among those he defeated in that election. It had been alleged that the man who had manipulated that society for many years had contacts in India and it was not surprising that Mrs Kanu was being put under pressure in India just after the election of her husband, in order to get him to resign.

He believed that both the Indian government and the British Foreign Office wanted this issue to die quietly for the sake of Anglo-Indian relations.

The behaviour of the corrupt government in India had been nothing short of appalling. Perhaps Britain should stop giving aid to India.

Was the Foreign Office to act? The British Government should intervene at the top level.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said she greatly regretted some of the language Mr Dicks had seen fit to use when referring to the Indian government and the legal processes in that Commonwealth country.

She firmly rejected his suggestion that the British Government or the Foreign Office was unsympathetic to the welfare of British citizens abroad or of the hard-working Sikh community in Britain.

Mrs Kanu had been charged under India's anti-terrorism laws and her case, which had been handled in a manner which was fully in accordance with the legal procedures in India, must be heard by the Indian courts.

As a UK citizen, she had been given the normal consular assistance.

Publicity did not always pay in such cases. Often a low-key approach had resolved problems when public acrimony had

Five projects for homeless

A scheme allowing local authorities extra resources and expertise to bring empty dwellings back into use for homeless families is to take effect outside London for the first time.

Mr Richard Tracey, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said, referring to the Estates Action Unit: "We have approved projects for five authorities at South Yesside, York, Woodspire, Rushmore and Milton Keynes."

This involves extra resources of £14 million, with 130 dwellings being brought back into use for the homeless.

Prison officers are 'against fresh start'

If the Home Office tried to impose the conditions on prison officers outlined in its policy document *A Fresh Start* it would cause increasing bitterness and mass resignations from the service, Mr Thomas Cox (Totting, Lab) said. Prison officers believed it would lead to compulsory overtime.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Home Office, said the Prison Officers' Association had a vested interest in preserving existing working practices but Home Office must have the flexibility to make better use of resources, both staff and money.

Withdra

WORLD SUMMARY

Karachi rioters lynch policeman

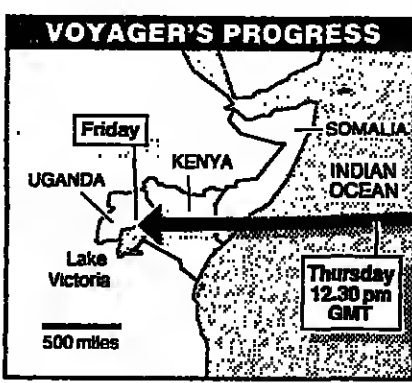
Karachi (Reuter) - Rioters lynched a policeman and badly injured four other officers after setting fire to their car in a suburb of strife-torn Karachi early yesterday.

Falkland Consular fishing access

The Foreign Office announced yesterday that its consul in Lasaka had been granted access to visit a Briton detained by Zambian authorities a week ago, allegedly by a South African submarine.

Voyager over Kenya

Nairobi (Reuter) - The experimental Voyager aircraft has passed safely over Kenya on the sixth day of its non-stop round the world flight, a pilot who sighted it yesterday.



North being deserted 'by so-called friends' Meese gives more secret evidence

From Michael Binyon, Washington Mr Edwin Meese, the US Attorney-General, yesterday gave further in camera testimony to the House intelligence committee, as senators were trying to piece together evidence they have heard in Senate intelligence committee hearings, which ended on Thursday.

The senators, who heard the secret testimony in a protected room and have sworn not to reveal any details, heard from more than 30 witnesses, including senior figures from the White House, the National Security Council (NSC), the Pentagon, State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency.

However, frustrated senators were unable to get the key figures in the arms scandal to testify - Vice-Admiral John Poindexter and Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, who were formerly at the NSC, and General Richard Secord, who has retired, all invoked the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination.

The key issue which the Senate was unable to determine was whether President Reagan had authorized the first shipment of arms from Israel to Iran in August 1985.

Mr Robert McFarlane, the former National Security Adviser, said the President gave a verbal authorization; Mr Donald Regan, the White House Chief of Staff, said Mr Reagan was opposed to any sale and only conceded it after he discovered it had happened.

The second issue still unresolved is who authorized the transfer of the profits from the arms sale to the Contras - at a time when it was illegal for the US to help them because of a congressional ban on military aid to the rebels.



Family reunion for the American mercenary, Mr Eugene Hasenfus, with his sons Adam, left, and Gene on arriving in Green Bay, Wisconsin, after his release from jail in Nicaragua.

US officers watch Sandinista troops

Puerto las Flores, Nicaragua (AP) - Two American military observers watched as thousands of Sandinista soldiers took part in exercises defending Nicaragua against a mock attack by US and other forces.

The war games, called "Total Annihilation of the Enemy Invader," ended late on Thursday after three days of manoeuvres by 6,500 Sandinista troops using Soviet-made T-55 tanks, Mi-24 helicopter gunships, multiple rocket launchers, surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft batteries.

The manoeuvres, apparently the largest since the Sandinistas came to power in 1979, took place around the village of Somotillo, located in north-western Nicaragua about three miles from the Houdouan border.

Among the foreign observers who watched the war games at Nicaragua's invitation were Colonel Edward Lorenzen, the Military Attaché in the US Embassy in Managua, and Major Victor Nell, the embassy's Air Attaché.

And this is usually a self-fulfilling rumour - usually, but not always. The Shultz example is a clear exception. A year or two ago, when conservatives were riding high in the Administration, the enemies of the dour pragmatist at the State Department put it about that Mr Shultz was on the way out, that he was so low-profile as to be almost invisible.

It was fervently predicted that he was disillusioned with his loss of influence and would resign. He did not. Mr Shultz, a consummate team player, out-maneuvred his opponents, and, until Reykjavik, was riding ever higher.

Then came Iran. Mr Shultz took a risk in distancing himself from the White House, to the fury of Mr Regan. Again, the symbols were so arcane as to be unintelligible to all but Kremlinologists or their White House equivalents: he did not issue statements of support for President Reagan; he allowed a tone of doubt and hesitation to creep into his voice.

But Mr Shultz now has a power base of his own: Europe and the world. He knows he is indispensable in the present crisis. The White House, whatever its irritation, cannot get rid of the last remaining figure credible to America's allies. The threat of resignation was never openly made. But it hung in the air, clear to all who read the press. And when he had won his way, Mr Shultz made the ritual statement of support and loyalty.

And to all the political analysts, the symbols and rituals have said more than any of the statements. Mr Regan may insist he is keeping his Chief of Staff, but the portents tell otherwise.

Iran says US paid hostage ransom

Tehran (Reuter) - A senior Iranian official said yesterday that Washington paid a ransom to Iran to secure the freedom of US hostages held in Lebanon.

The parliamentary speaker, Mr Ali Akbar Hasemi Rafsanjani, said: "I explicitly declare to the American people and to the world that the Americans paid us ransom in the Lebanon affair. We received ransom in return for our intercession."

Iranian officials and Washington have denied that US weapons were sent to Iran in a direct trade for Americans held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Three US hostages were freed during an 18-month period when the White House was secretly trying to improve relations with Tehran, partly by authorizing arms shipments.

Mr Rafsanjani said formal relations between the two countries, broken by the United States during the 1979-81 occupation of the American Embassy in Tehran, could not be restored at present.

But he said it would be a first step if Washington released Iranian assets, including weapons and military supplies paid for before Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

He said the release of the assets and Iran's response, "requesting our Shia brothers in Lebanon to free US hostages" was all that was possible between Iran and the United States for the time being.

Mr Rafsanjani said many US politicians agreed with President Reagan that the United States should have relations with Iran because of its strategic importance.

"How can they be voted into office in the White House, the Senate, the Congress, etc, and yet not have the guts to implement what is in their country's interest?"

He urged them to admit their mistake in "adopting a hostile attitude towards a nation which rose up to regain its rights and nothing more."

"You know that you have great interests in the Persian Gulf and that no one except Iran can safeguard the Gulf's security. Now come out and say this explicitly," he said.

Mr Rafsanjani said Iran would never fall into the Soviet orbit, a possibility voiced by some American leaders.

"We will have nothing with the Soviet Union except an equal relationship," he said. "They (Americans) should get it out of their heads that we might become a Soviet satellite, but we can be friends with the Soviets... and that's what we are working for."

Regan target of whispering campaign in Washington

The fall of Donald Regan is a classic example of the way power politics work in Washington. First there are the murmurs and whispers - press articles quoting "officials" or "sources" voicing dissatisfaction with the White House Chief of Staff.

Then come the more authoritative, but still unnamed, calls from "senior Administration officials" for him to step down.

Then the leaks begin - President Reagan's California circle and, more damagingly, Mrs Nancy Reagan are quoted as advising the President to dismiss his abrasive aide. Then senators and senior Republicans go public, criticizing him on television and speaking of him as an obstacle to the President's recovery.

Mr Regan digs in his heels, asserts his position and soldiers on. But the hammer blows are now raining on him daily. Vituperative profiles appear in the papers, reporters stalk him wherever he goes with the relentless question: "Will you resign?" And, of course, in the end he will.

Power in Washington, as in the Kremlin, works through symbols. And like the old men

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

In his heyday, Mr Regan was always there, no more than a couple of steps from Mr Reagan, carrying the important papers, jostling a path clear for the President, snapping a comment or quip to the throng of reporters.

But when things began to go wrong, he faded from view. The "Prime Minister", as he enjoyed hearing himself dubbed, was no longer prime - others, such as Mr George Shultz and Vice-President George Bush, were there instead.

Mr Regan was no longer sought out for his comments, no longer the star of the television interviews.

In Washington, influence lies only in its perception. For unlike governments in Europe, no American Cabinet member or White House official is a politician in his own right. All serve at the whim of the President. They have no elective base on which to rest their authority, no constituency they can mobilize to mount a challenge.

The only two men the American people elect to rule them are the President and the Vice-President. Power, therefore, depends on accomplishment, on being indispensable, on effectively carrying out the President's wishes. And since it is not always easy to know or anticipate these, a canny survivor has always to look over his shoulder to see who has the President's ear, or who has moved his office closer to the Oval Office.

The political stiletto in Washington, therefore, consists of innuendo, of suggestions that one is "out of the loop" and no longer valued as an adviser.

And this is usually a self-fulfilling rumour - usually, but not always. The Shultz example is a clear exception. A year or two ago, when conservatives were riding high in the Administration, the enemies of the dour pragmatist at the State Department put it about that Mr Shultz was on the way out, that he was so low-profile as to be almost invisible.

It was fervently predicted that he was disillusioned with his loss of influence and would resign. He did not. Mr Shultz, a consummate team player, out-maneuvred his opponents, and, until Reykjavik, was riding ever higher.

Bonn spy Language barrier

Bonn - The West German Interior Ministry has named three Soviet diplomats and a member of the Czechoslovak Embassy as spies and asked the Foreign Ministry to declare them persona non grata, a Bonn paper said yesterday (John England writes).

The report, in Die Welt, said they had been engaged in spying in political, technological and military areas. The Interior Ministry refused to comment, but a source close to the ministry said it was expected to tell the three to leave without fuss as soon as possible.

Rebels sink Nile boats

Nairobi - Rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army claim to have destroyed four river boats on the White Nile in two recent attacks on a government convoy returning from delivering relief supplies to the Upper Nile regional capital of Malakal (A Correspondent writes).

The attacks were made at the weekend, near Kodok.

Roses clue in kidnap mystery

From Mac Margolis Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian police, with few leads and scanty evidence, are trying to solve a spectacular case of kidnapping which has already involved the authorities in Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina.

Even the FBI was called in to help solve the case of the vice-president of Brazil's largest bank, Senhor Antonio Beltrán Martínez, aged 58, who was seized early last month.

He reappeared about 20 miles outside São Paulo on Wednesday, after his son delivered two suitcases packed with \$4 million.

His family was told of his abduction in a typewritten note attached to a bouquet of 30 white roses.

Police said a woman wearing a blonde wig and green contact lenses had ordered the roses from a São Paulo florist.

The kidnapers repeatedly telephoned and wrote to the family, telling them not to cooperate with the police.

Senhor Josecy Cuoco, an agent of the Brazilian anti-kidnap group, Gas, said he feared that this case could now spawn "an industry of kidnappings" in São Paulo.



Miss Jill Morrell, the fiancée of John McCarthy, a British hostage in Lebanon, looks at photographs of foreign hostages during a visit to Damascus. Miss Morrell, aged 29, is in the Syrian capital to try to seek the release of her husband-to-be, who has been held since April.

Withdrawal of new French 10-franc coins will cost £10m

From Diana Geddes, Paris Less than two months after its unhappy birth, France's new "baby" 10-franc coin (worth about £1) has been killed off - to a unanimous sigh of relief, but at a cost of more than £10 million to the French taxpayer.

From the moment of its launch on October 22 the pure nickel coin, scarcely bigger than an old English sixpence, caused an uproar. In colour, size and thickness it was almost identical to a 50-centime piece.

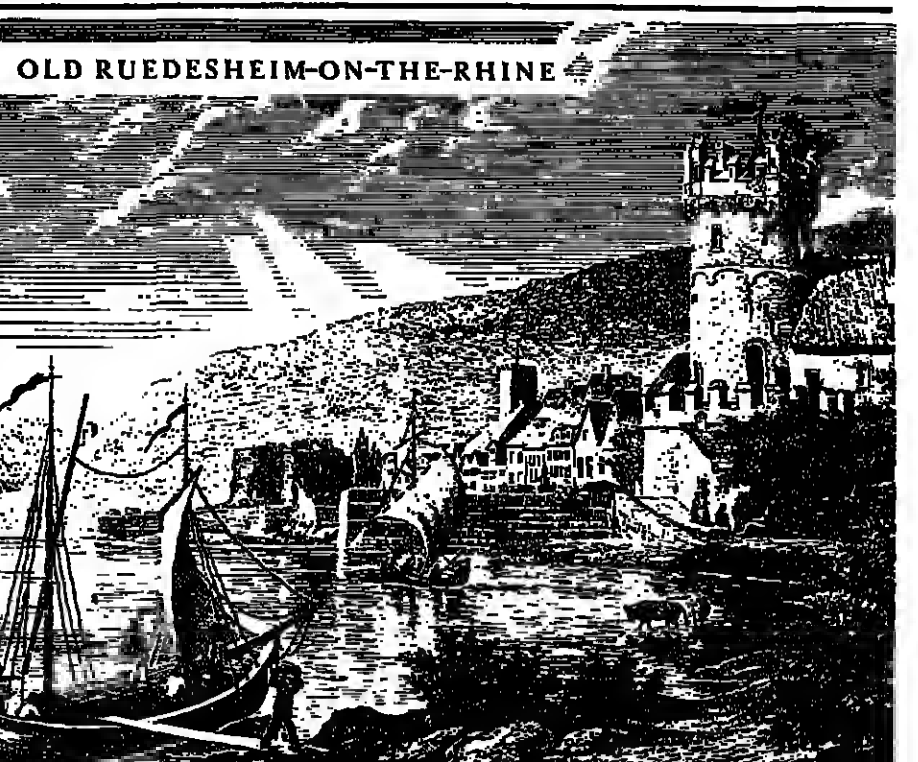
Announcing the Government's decision to withdraw the new coin from January 1, M Edouard Balladur, the Finance Minister, emphasized that its creation was entirely the responsibility of the former Socialist regime.

He had considered withdrawing the 50-centime piece, but that would have cost an estimated £50 million. A million of the new coins have gone into circulation alongside the former, large copper 10-franc piece, which is about the size of an English 10p piece.

Privatization list

Names of the next four companies to be privatized after St Gobain, Parisbas, and the television channel, TF1, have been announced by M Balladur.

They are Havas, the largest French advertising company; Crédit Commercial de France, one of the 10 biggest French banks; and two smaller banks, the Banque de Bâtiment et des Travaux Publics, and the Banque Industrielle et Mobilière Privée.



The Asbach Story

It could easily be argued that Ruedesheim is the gateway to that most beautiful part of the River Rhine with its vineyards and castles.

What is beyond dispute is that it is the home of that most sought after German Brandy - Asbach-Uralt. For it was here, around the turn of the century that Hugo Asbach founded his world-famous distillery.

It takes five litres of the finest wines to produce one single bottle of Asbach-Uralt. What it also takes is the family skill in distilling; the maturing in Limousin oak barrels; and of course the blending, handed down through generations, to create this soft, mellow, golden brandy. The after dinner brandy that isn't just for after dinner.

Discover it in discerning restaurants and off licences, or come and see us here in Ruedesheim from Monday to mid-day Friday for a tasting. For further information write to: Weinbrenneret, Asbach & Co, 6220 Ruedesheim am Rhein, Postfach 1130, West Germany.



The Great Brandy from the Romantic Rhine

Gorbachov sanctioned release of Nobel prize winner from exile

Western concern helped end Sakharovs' ordeal

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin's decision, sanctioned personally by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, to allow Dr Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, to return to Moscow ends a nightmare existence for the Nobel prize-winner...

a street of Moscow - is illegal, although Soviet officials recently used a press conference called to mark International Human Rights Day to argue that it was justified as an administrative decision taken by the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet.

harassing," she wrote. "Sometimes you find that your house has been entered and things moved or taken."



Dr Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner: the end comes to a nightmare existence in the closed city of Gorky.

spoonful of nutriment or broth containing strained meat would be poured into my mouth," he wrote in a smuggled account published in the West earlier this year.

feel the veins bulging on my forehead." Although Dr Sakharov's ill-treatment and continuing exile became one of the biggest threats to Mr Gorbachov's efforts to improve the Kremlin's image on human rights...

Sakharov before his banishment remember him as a quietly spoken, impeccably mannered man who left a firm impression of what one hard-nosed American reporter described as "saintliness."

Cautious welcome for Soviet decision

By Our Foreign Staff

Western officials have hailed the Soviet decision to free Dr Sakharov from internal exile, but said there were many other cases to be resolved if Moscow meant to turn a new leaf in its treatment of dissidents.

Turks still press to join EEC

By Andrew McEwen Diplomatic Correspondent

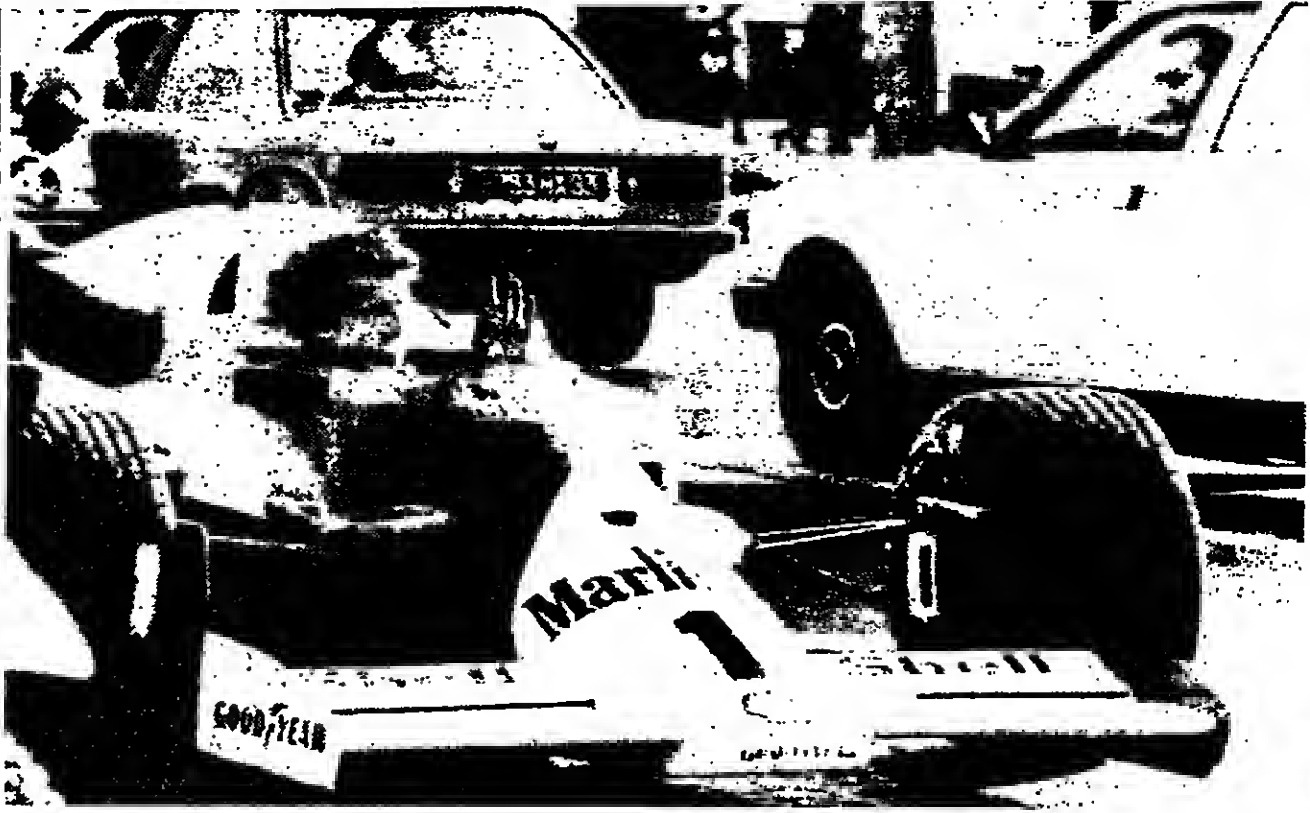
Turkey has served notice that it does not intend to take "No" as an answer from Britain in its bid to secure EEC membership.

Soviet rioting 'over' Kremlin confirms more open policy

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The Soviet Government said yesterday that the situation in the Kazakhstan capital of Alma-Ata, scene of rioting against the appointment of a new leader of the Central Asian republic's Communist Party, had "returned to normal."

greatly to the details about the disturbances first released on Thursday night by Tass. But he stressed that the "overwhelming and absolute majority" of party members in the republic had approved the decision to replace Mr Dinmukhamed Kunayev, aged 74, with Mr Gennady Kolbin, a 59-year-old Gorbachov loyalist and Russian national.



Alain Prost, who has won the World Formula One motor racing championship twice, waving to motorists as he drives his McLaren racing car down the Champs Elysees yesterday in a lap of honour which is accorded to Frenchmen who achieve world status in their chosen field.

China gets tough on screening

Peking (AFP) - China's Health Ministry, facing resistance by foreign students to mandatory Aids screening, has threatened to bar them from classes unless they complied.

Bokassa trial judges charge ex-police chief with perjury

After many hours of legal shadow-boxing, the court trying former Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa for murder, cannibalism, grand larceny and sundry other crimes yesterday arrested his former Chief of Police, Mr Corzoo Kazin, and later charged him with perjury.



Maradona in paternity suit

Naples (AP) - Court proceedings have begun in a paternity case involving the Argentine football star Diego Maradona, who plays for Napoli in Italy's First Division.

Mulroney trip

Ottawa (AFP) - The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, is to make a three-day official visit to Zimbabwe in January.

Too costly

Lagos (AFP) - Pan American World Airlines is ending nearly a quarter of a century of service to Africa after Nigeria's military Government cut the fares airlines can charge for flights out of Lagos.

Death penalty

Peking (Reuters) - An accountant at the Bank of China and two accomplices from the Portuguese-administered territory of Macao have been executed in Zhuhai in the south of China for smuggling, fraud and embezzlement.

Police hurt

Malilla (Reuters) - At least seven policemen were injured when 300 Muslims stoned a police station in protest at the arrest of a Muslim leader in this Spanish enclave.

Bewigged bear

Wellington (Reuters) - Dr Gerard Wall, the Speaker of New Zealand's Parliament, flooding a large stuffed brown bear clothed in wig and gown occupying his chair when he returned from a dinner break, gave the bear the customary parliamentary bow before an attendant removed it from the chamber.

Blacks begin Christmas campaign

Five die over candle protest

The trouble began on the evening of December 16, the start of the 10-day "Christmas Against the Emergency" protest called by the United Democratic Front (UDF), an alliance of more than 800 anti-apartheid organizations.

PARTYING SHOTS

We gave ten celebrities a camera each, sent them partying, and saw what developed



THE SUNDAY TIMES BETTER THAN A MONTH OF OTHER SUNDAYS

Holidays Gran Hotel La Toja First class (5 stars) Galicia North Spain, tennis, golf 9 holes, casino, swimming pool climate, congress pavilion. Tel: 010/34/986 730025 Telex 88042 toxne

FORCED AUCTION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED EXCEPTIONALLY FINE AS WELL AS MEDIUM QUALITY PERSIAN AND ORIENTAL RUGS CARPETS AND RUNNERS

The M15 case: No judgement until February

Whitehall compromise hint as spy book hearing ends

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The M15 book hearing ended on a note of mystery yesterday after 22 days of evidence and legal argument estimated to have cost the British Government about £1 million and a good deal more in loss of dignity. A judgement in the marathon battle over Mr Peter Wright's memoirs is not expected before February.

The final act in Court 8D of the New South Wales Supreme Court included an angry rebuttal by Whitehall of allegations made against Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, and Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary; and a suggestion that there could be a last-minute compromise.

It also quashed last-minute speculation of a deal on Mr Wright's book, *Spycatcher*, after a hint of compromise briefly entered the courtroom.

The mystery concerns precisely what the British Government intended by asking for "clarification" of its position, which on Thursday provoked Mr Justice Powell to accuse Whitehall of delaying tactics, and warn that he could dismiss the entire case.

It appears that the Government was asking the judge to be an arbiter of what material in the secret Wright manuscript is in the public domain — in other words, is common knowledge — by asking him to compare its contents with 26 other books.

This proposal indicated a new flexibility on the important public domain issue. The Government has throughout dismissed it as irrelevant, maintaining that Mr Wright was disqualified from writing about anything learnt during his career with M15, whether it was in the public domain or not.

Yesterday morning Mr Malcolm Turnbull, counsel for Mr Wright, said his understanding was that Whitehall was offering the deal of a "blue pencil job" similar to that used on Nigel West's book, *A Matter of Trust*, which was published with government approval after being temporarily restrained.

"We remain prepared to enter into a West-style negotiation, as long as it is carried out fairly and quickly," Mr Turnbull said.

Mr Theo Simos QC said, however, that Mr Turnbull had misunderstood the government position. The intention was that the judge should explore the principle of public domain. If, for example, a subject had been covered in two lines of a previous book, was Mr Wright entitled to write 20 pages on it?

If appropriate, Mr Simos said there would be discussions with Mr Wright about how the principle would apply to the whole manuscript. He described this process as "negotiation", but then said

The submissions (about Sir Robert and Sir Michael) were baseless, unjustified and should be rejected out of hand

Mr Theo Simos, QC

that was "the wrong word" and changed it to "discussion".

Mr Simos then went on the offensive for one of the few times in the case in denouncing Mr Turnbull's attack on Sir Michael Havers and Sir Robert Armstrong.

The language used by Mr Turnbull in accusing these men of deceit had been "extravagant, melodramatic and outrageously inappropriate," Mr Simos said. "The submissions were baseless, unjustified and should be rejected out of hand. They were full of schoolboy debating tricks, full of emotive allegations and mixed metaphors, which even a third-rate journalist should not be proud of."

The attack on Sir Robert's credibility had been based on three matters: the letter he wrote to Chapman Pincher's publishers asking for a copy of *The Trade Is Treachery* when the Gov-

ernment already had page proofs; on his sworn answers to two interrogatories; and on the delay in correcting his mistake that Sir Michael had made the decision not to try to restrain the Pincher book.

Mr Simos said Sir Robert had admitted that his letter to the publishers had given "a misleading impression". But his answers to this question had been that of a truthful witness.

At this point, the judge interrupted to say that it could be said of Sir Robert that "he would not stoop to a lie when a half truth would do". He had admitted the judge added, that though he would not wish to lie, there might be circumstances in which he had to.

The judge said: "I have to say to myself, 'I know that he has dissembled on one occasion.' I must bear that in mind."

That was not the issue, Mr Simos replied. The issue was whether Sir Robert lied in the witness box.

As to that, the judge said that in the past 10 years there had been only four witnesses who had concluded were lying. His main objection to Sir Robert's testimony was that he was an official when the person who could have offered useful, hard evidence would have been a technician.

On the two interrogatories, Mr Simos said that, subject to qualifications made by Sir Robert on the replies themselves, there was no basis for suggesting that he had not been truthful in cross-examination.

On the one-week delay before Sir Robert told the court that he had been mistaken in testifying that it had been Sir Michael who decided not to seek restraint of the Pincher book, Mr Simos said: "No delay was attributable to Sir Robert."

Any delay on Sir Michael's side had been due to "study of the transcript and making inquiries from all appropriate persons, and then giving consideration as to whether it was appropriate to communicate with a witness under cross-examination."

Upsurge in Uganda tribal war

Support for rebel guerrillas in north worries Britain

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Disturbing evidence that President Yoweri Museveni is losing his military grip on northern Uganda in the face of stiff, tribal-based resistance has reached London.

Travellers returning from the region paint a grim picture of fighting virtually on a daily basis between the President's National Resistance Army and guerrilla movements.

The strife has severely hampered European relief efforts, driven many small farmers from their land, discouraged crop planting, and aroused concern among EEC officials in Brussels that food supplies may dwindle.

Four independent sources contacted by *The Times* agreed that the guerrillas were receiving strong popular support from local Acholi people. While still in control of Gulu, the main central northern town, and the road linking it to Kampala, government troops risked ambush whenever they moved into the bush.

Even troops in the town have been twice attacked. The local support will cause greater concern in Britain than the fighting itself. Whitehall has invested high hopes in President Museveni as the man most likely to break the

mould of Ugandan tribalism. Since he came to power in January his excellent civil rights record has encouraged ministers to believe that he could attract broad, inter-tribal support.

For several months continuing resistance in the north stemmed mainly from remnants of the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA), the troops of the previous government.

The balance of guerrilla forces has since changed. Recent visitors say that UNLA units have merged with a broader but loose-knit resistance which has no clear leader. Roving bandits and cattle rustlers have added to the confusion.

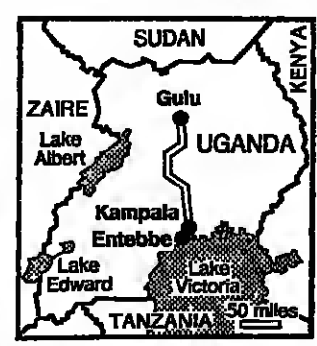
One Acholi source said there was now hardly a family

that did not have a relative linked to the guerrillas. Local people refer to them simply as *ahim* or *oddi*. Both words are said to mean "the people from the bush".

The trends have prompted mounting pessimism about the chances for national reconciliation. For 20 years the Nilotic tribes of the north — the Acholis, Langis and West Nile peoples — dominated the far more numerous southern Bantu through the governments of Idi Amin, Milton Obote and Tito Okello.

While President Museveni's support comes from the Bantu, his policy is strongly opposed to tribalism. In an attempt to attract broad support he has imposed stern discipline on his own troops.

An attempt to cast doubt on their reputation emerged last week. A prominent Acholi flew to London to air allegations of serious civil rights abuses by the President's forces. He claimed that government troops hunting guerrillas had killed 11 civilian hostages in a single incident. On another occasion women attempting to flee a hut set on fire by troops were shot dead as they broke out of a mud wall.



Suicides by young Japanese rise

Tokyo — Suicides by young Japanese have risen dramatically this year, with 723 children and teenagers taking their own lives in the 11 months to December (David Watts writes).

The biggest increase in suicides was among young girls, apparently prompted by the

example of Miss Yukiko Okada, a young pop singer. Miss Okada was the incarnation of the dreams of thousands of romantic, immature Japanese girls. After a failed suicide attempt in April, she was released from hospital only to jump promptly to her death from an apartment win-

dow. The singer was distraught over an unhappy affair with an older man. A rash of "copycat" suicides followed and by the end of November 220 girls, 77 per cent more than last year, had killed themselves. The biggest increase came in May after Miss Okada's death.

Zimbabwe crackdown on 'quacks'

From A Correspondent Harare

The Zimbabwe Government is planning to clamp down on bogus "traditional healers" by introducing a disciplinary code along the lines of force for Western-trained doctors.

The traditional healers or herbalists have been officially recognized since independence in 1980 and their previous, description — witch doctors — is frowned upon.

But after six years of talks and studies the authorities have not come up with a definition of a "traditional healer" or a set of examinations which could be imposed to check their abilities.

The last time an African government tried to tackle the problem was more than 160 years ago, when King Shaka's Zulu empire was faced with an epidemic of teenage boys trying to evade army service by enrolling as trainee witch doctors. They were made to sleep unarmoured in the hyena-infested bush to prove their supernatural powers.

Zimbabwe's *bona fide* traditional healers, or *ngangas*, as they are known, received warm praise from the country's foremost expert on western medicine, the late Professor Michael Gelfand, who acknowledged their ability to treat psychosomatic illnesses beyond the reach of European science.

The Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, told a group of government-trained health assistants in Harare on Thursday that the state-sponsored Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers' Association (Zinatha) was ready to weed out quacks who cheated gullible people in the country's remote areas.



An Israeli soldier stands guard in Manger Square, Bethlehem, as part of the increased security measures being taken in preparation for the flood of tourists over Christmas.

Jerusalem police raid bible college

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Police with sniffer dogs trained in finding explosives raided the Shvuva Banim yeshiva (bible college) in the old city of Jerusalem early yesterday morning.

After a search of the rambling old building, in the Muslim quarter of the city, they arrested one student for possession of a knife and a dagger.

Another student from the college was arrested on Wednesday after police searched the car he had been driving and found rags and turpentine inside. The car had been abandoned after a chase on Tuesday night, when its three occupants disappeared into the darkness.

A student from the same college was stabbed to death in the Old City last month, provoking violent anti-Arab demonstrations after three Palestinian were arrested for the murder.

Yesterday's raid was carried out as part of police investigations into grenade booby traps set outside an Arab home and under an Arab-owned car, which were discovered on Wednesday in east Jerusalem.

The bombs had been made from Israeli Army grenades and had been set using similar techniques. They were defused by an Israeli Army bomb disposal team.

Police say they are investigating a possibility that there has been a rebirth of the extremist Jewish "underground" gang, members of which in the past have been responsible for bombing the cars of West Bank Arab mayors and for planning to blow up the Dome of the Rock in the Old City.

The occupied territories continue to remain tense, with occasional stone-throwing incidents.

Labour in revolt at Israel budget cuts

Jerusalem — Labour members of Israel's coalition Government of National Unity, backed by the party's political bureau and the Histadrut trade union movement, mean to block the economic austerity plan and budget due to be presented to the Cabinet tomorrow (Ian Murray writes).

According to the Likud Finance Minister, Mr Moshe Nissim, the package is intended to herald a new era in the economy, but Labour ministers, led by Mr Shimon Peres, who as Prime Minister brought in the last austerity plan in July 1985, have damned the scheme as hitting the poor to help the rich. Even more significantly, they claim

that it will put the nation at risk.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, has emphasized this in pointing out that budget cuts have already undermined the security of the country.

Mr Rabin has also told the Knesset that not only has military training had to be reduced, ammunition reserves used up and emergency depots raided, but that all of its production secrets have had to be disclosed as the state-run defence industries have struggled to stay in business.

The disclosures were made, he said, to try to interest foreign buyers in top-secret weapons systems designed and

developed by the defence industries. The need to find buyers to keep the factories in business was reluctantly judged to be more important than keeping their secrets. Even though the disclosures had now been made, it would be a year or more before it was known if the sacrifice had paid off.

He also complained that weapons research had had to be curtailed and that research staff would have to be cut by 700 more before the end of March, merely to hold spending inside last year's budget.

This year's draft budget has defence contributing savings equivalent to 40 per cent of all of the 486 million shekels

(£240 million) in cuts being sought by the Treasury.

This would top 180 million shekels off the defence budget, while Mr Rabin has been pressing for an increase of at least that amount just to maintain defence levels.

Health and education are the other two areas where the Treasury is seeking large cuts. Both are run by Labour ministers, who are threatening to join Mr Rabin in blocking the budget. Mr Nissim insists that the plan must be implemented if the economy is to continue its painful recovery. He has told Mr Rabin the security of the country relies at least as much on a sound economy as it does on the Army.

Welshman accused of Lufthansa kidnapping

From John England, Bonn

A Welshman extradited from London to West Germany last month is to be charged with involvement in the terrorist kidnapping of a Lufthansa airline manager in Bolivia in 1983, for whom a \$1.5 million (about £1 million) ransom was paid.

Mr Alan Rees, aged 35, of the South Wales town of Ammanford, has been in jail in Frankfurt on remand since his extradition on November 26 after losing a long legal battle to stay in Britain.

Mr Rees, along with four members of the Bolivian Socialist Falange group, is alleged to have kidnapped Herr Michael Wurche, aged 41, the Lufthansa regional manager, from outside his home in La Paz on November 14 1983.

Herr Wurche told police that five masked and armed men bundled him in to the back seat of his car, gave him an injection that made him lose consciousness, and drove him to a shack on the outskirts of La Paz where he was chained to a bed.

The kidnapers' ransom demand of \$1.5 million was met with registered notes from the West German Federal Bank, and Herr Wurche was released near La Paz airport.

Mr Rees, who denies all charges against him, was arrested at Gatwick airport in March 1984.

The spokesman in Wiesbaden said three of the Bolivians, who initially accused Mr Rees of masterminding the kidnapping, had also been detained.

India clears Briton of Bhopal spying charges

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

The Supreme Court of India has ordered the Government to drop all charges against Mr David Bergman, a Briton arrested in Bhopal for spying.

Mr Bergman, a 21-year-old law student, approached the court on Friday to clear his name and alleged that the Madhya Pradesh government continued to malign him.

Justice M M Dutta and Justice Rangsh Mishra said in their judgement that the charge against Mr Bergman was not maintainable and that the state government and the central Government should "clearly" state that there was no charge of spying against him.

Mr Bergman bicycled from Birmingham to Bhopal to raise money for the survivors of the gas tragedy of December

1984 in the Union Carbide plant at Bhopal.

In Punjab, suspected Sikh terrorists killed a student in Amritsar yesterday.

Three days earlier, terrorists killed a Sikh family of six, including three children, for having allegedly given information to police about Mr Dhana Singh Sidhu, a "Khalistan" leader who was arrested on Sunday night.

Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, the Punjab Chief Minister, has defended the police entry into the Golden Temple in Amritsar earlier this year. He asked the Akali breakaway group in the state assembly in Chandigarh what else he could have done when the terrorists announced the formation of "Khalistan" from the ramparts of the temple.

Advertisement for 'U.K.'s LARGEST EVER FUR SALE' featuring 'FREE 2 FUR JACKETS ON EVERY SALE OVER £499' and 'THIS SUNDAY ONLY 21st DECEMBER 9.30am to 6.00pm'. Includes details for Rembrandt Hotel and a list of fur items for sale.

THE ARTS

OPERA

La Bohème Grand, Leeds

It no longer shocks when notoriously shocking directors fail to shock, and so David Freeman's production of La Bohème, where the characters actually look, and behave credibly like, young Parisians of around 1830 can be accepted quite cheerfully as an essay in naturalism, and a successful essay at that.

I think it is possible to take the opera at other than face value, but Mr Freeman provides good reason for treating it naively. First in the physical energy he inspires in the cast, and second in his device of a narrator.

Between the acts Schnaurnard reappears, 20 years on, to reminisce, so that we really are shown, as the original cove had it, "scenes from Bohemian life".

The highly-romanticized and compacted nature of the scenes is perhaps explained as due in the working of memory; alternatively we may be witnessing an opera composed by Schnaurnard himself.

More practically, the narrative covers scene changes neatly.

But, of course, the main business is the opera, which, curiously, seems shortened by the extension, perhaps because it is so definitively framed into four panels, vivid though the acting style is.

The garret is indeed a tiny space, only about 12 feet across and this thrusts the companions up against each other, helping them to generate in themselves and in one another a self-conscious, exaggerated vitality. That effect is also assisted by the fact that David Rogers' designs provide grey backgrounds, barely in focus, against which the costumes parade in vigorous colours, especially in the second act. With nothing picturesque in the setting, the action is closely centred on the six young people.

The production bears that centring because all six are young and young-looking, spontaneous in their behaviour and fresh of voice. Eirian Davies as Mimì is out only a triumph of make-up: her distant vibrato-less tones are plausibly those of a consumptive, and yet she can swing from this delicacy to a fullness that is still in character.

William Shimell is darkly suave and sensual as Marcello, and Anna Steiger, after a shaky start as Musetta, looks set to equal him in game-playing and vocal cunning. Clive Bayley, vocally unfit, acted an eager, shaggy Colline to John Connell's secure pronouncements from the pit, where Elgar Howarth was in charge of a delectably colourful orchestral performance.

Paul Griffiths

Prize turkeys of 1986

Britain led the world in turkey-farming this year. The prize bird, of course, was the disastrous Revolution. Apart from being a profound setback to the economy and morale of British films, Hugh Hudson's story of the American Revolution raised the profound question of how it was possible for a major film organization to invest over \$20m in a script whose inadequacies must have appeared from the first, even to the most inexperienced eye.

The actors (Al Pacino and the ubiquitous Nastassia Kinski) did not have a chance against the absurdities and chatter of the screenplay; and the visual possibilities were largely sacrificed to a naive quest for newsreel-style authenticity (aka wobbly cameras).

Another British extravaganza, Absolute Beginners turned Colin McInnes' mirror of the Fifties into a series of superficial, nostalgic, scatterbrained pop videos. The novel became just another period artefact, alongside the old TV sets, refrigerators, news headlines and a middle-aged Mandy Rice-Davies. The director Julien Temple offered as his surprising excuse: "I simply wanted to conjure up the experience I remember the first time I took speed in the city".

Highlander (directed by Russell Mulcahy, like Julien Temple a pop

With five more days to go before the Christmas dinner our film and television critics select some of the biggest screen flops of the year

video wizard) saw maximal deployment of special effects and high technology alongside minimal story sense. The comic-strip saga was a farago about a gaggle of immortal creatures, representing good and evil and battling down the ages for the prize of universal intelligence. For sure none of them had ever won it.

Car Trouble will at least be remembered for putting on the screen a venerable sexual myth about the fornicating adulterers who find themselves inextricably trapped in the act by a muscular spasm. The director was David Green.

The daffiest bird from the British hatcheries though must have been Biggles, directed by John Hough. It was a bizarre decision to resurrect Captain W. E. Johns' boy's book hero (whose one-time devotees must by now be well past cinema-going age); it was a defeatist one to hurl the film into mid-Atlantic, subordinating the nominal hero to a modern New Yorker who keeps falling through a time-war to get caught up in the adventures of Biggles and his pals on the Western Front in 1917.

In Hollywood, Turkeycock bellicosity is currently potent stuff at the box office. Top Gun and Heartbreak Ridge, which tell young America what fun the next war will be. Sylvester Stallone does his bit for international misunderstanding in Rocky IV by battling a Soviet Goliath twice his size. Naturally the Commie has the advantage of costly technological training, as well as steroids and plain cheating. Honest American guts conquer, just the same.

Australian actor and director Bruce Beresford's King David, diligently doing a breakneck rundown of the Biblical monarch's diplomatic career and private life, failed to capture the flamboyance of old De Mille epics, though it did revive some of the absurdities - like the robed stenographer who announces he's taking it all down for the Book of Samuel, or the nasty moment when Richard Gere girds up his athletic loins to dance before the Lord.

Probably the first film adapted from a board game was Clue (in this country, where it was invented,

known as "Cluedo"). This predictably doomed undertaking fell to an Englishman, Jonathan Lynn, as his first feature assignment. The film has its place in history as the only time in half a century that anyone thought it funny when the French Maid says "Oui, oui".

For Britain they changed the title of Howard the Duck to Howard... A New Breed of Hero, evidently hoping that audiences would not notice that the nasty little thing from outer space was a bird. But no one was fooled, and the box office has proved the Duck a kosher Turkey.

Everyone has his blind spots: in Roman Polanski it is apparently an inability to direct either action or knockabout comedy. Since Pirates was intended as knockabout comedy spoof adventure, another \$30m (of Franco-Tanzanian money this time) went more or less down the drain. The gallery was nice.

Finally two Turkey Titles that have not yet surfaced in this country, but deserve recording. Class of Nuke 'Em High promises high jinks and comical catastrophes when an entire school is exposed to radiation from a nuclear power plant fall-out, and given a title like Revenge of the Teenage Vixens From Outer Space, the movie in go with it is almost superfluous.

David Robinson



Howard the Duck: a bird that did not take off

Worst among equals

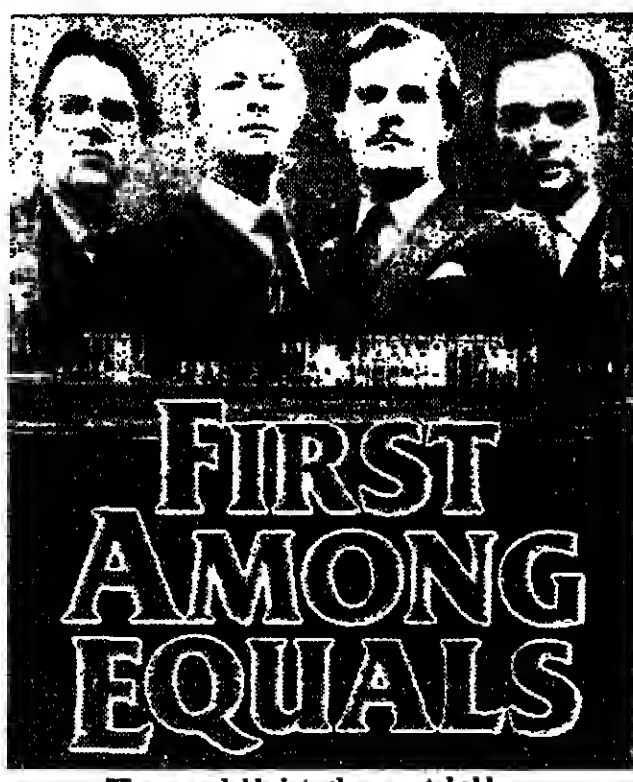
In American parlance, a "couch potato" is a home-grown tuber distinguished by deep roots and square eyes. Where humans have heads and hands, couch potatoes have programme guides and auto-changers. This easy-care domestic vegetable requires only occasional watering with alcoholic beverages.

As a member of the English sub-species "sofa spud", I happily absorb snooker, Gainsborough movies, shampoo commercials, *Allo, Allo*, *Booker repeats*, news for the deaf. I have been known to sit through programmes hosted by Dennis Norden; a nicely tinted test card gets my vote every time.

But nothing short of death threats would induce me ever again to watch a single minute of *First Among Equals* (Granada). This mock-vaunted "drama" of political ambition and men's tailoring had all the allure of a bus timetable.

An unreadable novel became an unwatchable serial staffed by decent second-division actors who ought to have had more sense of shame. With its plywood characterization and fibreglass dialogue, it easily beat *Life and Loves of a She Devil* as the year's silliest fictional adaptation.

Paul Griffiths



The unreadable into the unwatchable

My second hate was *The Story of English* (BBC2), a fulsome babble in weekly instalments. This sprawling historical survey of the mother tongue as she spoke was a useful idea torpedoed by lack of ideas, and suffering from a surfeit of Roberts (McCrum and MacNeil), who - not knowing how properly to enlighten and entertain their audience - ended by patronizing and boring it.

But the bronze medal in the 1986 Turkey Olympics went to *England v Argentina*, a

Martin Cropper

Self-appointed household gods

Much as we now look back at mercury cures, tobacco, and hallucinogens, so will future generations be astonished by how we have been fool enough to allow violence into our homes under the mask of pleasure. By then, the correlation between violence on streets and violence on screen will be an accepted truism.

Another cause for wonderment will be the madhouse stranglehold that Desmond Wilcox and Esther Rantzen currently exert on our nation. To have these two as household gods must be some reflection on our home.

Esther, self-appointed moral guardian ("very, very interested in leukaemia and the Ethiopian fund") with the expression of a lambing bon-constructor; and Desmond, mercilessly lighting on exposed flesh like a blowtorch to extract that one last tear. The most gruesome thing about



Terry Waite and Esther Rantzen: a taste for the centre stage



Terry Waite and Esther Rantzen: a taste for the centre stage

Desmond's case is the way he biscuit-worms his way into people's lives, to become an integral, even necessary part of their existence.

What other form could be plucked from our screen without the shedding of a Wilcox tear? Tim Rice, of course, and Frank Bough (a slipped refutation, surely, of any left-wing bias attack); all those responsible for *Allo, Allo*, *Clarendon*, and *The Jim Davidson Show* - though not *Blind Date* which along with *The Singing Detective* are the plans on this year's pudding. Former newscasters Pamela Armstrong and Angela Rippon. Alastair Burnet straining to be Terry Waite,

and lastly Terry Waite straining to be Alastair Burnet. I do not know why the words "the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy" carry the charge they do, but whenever I hear them my stomach convulses. Ms Waite performs as excellent a job as Ms Rantzen, but in making centre stage his work behind the scenes he does both himself and this work a disservice. The single worst series this year consisted in the interviews Terry Waite conducted with people he much admires. Looking like a great St Bernard which had lost its brandy bottle, Waite inspected his hands, giggled, and talked a lot about himself. Invited to discuss her work for Save the Children, Princess Anne had to listen to Mr Waite's fantasies about becoming a musician.

Nicholas Shakespeare

When to press the button

Let there be no more televised award ceremonies, all mannered hypocrisy in a tuxedo of unctious, less they start giving televised awards for televised award ceremony. Let there be no more Royal travogues; lest we subliminally assume that foreign states only exist when blessed by the Windsors.

And finally, let there be a distinction between chat shows and arts and book programmes - other than that in the former the guests promote their own works, in the latter that of their friends.

Andrew Hislop

Tales of 1001 fantasies

The *Walter of Kai Lung* by Ernest Bramah (Oxford, £4.95)

O most esteemed and discerning reader, learn of these gravity-removing and elaborately devised although not absolutely authentically Oriental tales from the mouth of the itinerant story-teller Kai Lung.

Highly esteemed by such not inconsiderable mandarins as J.B. Priestley and Hilaire Belloc, who is there who would stoop so near to the dusty ground beneath their bound and elegant feet as to complain that Ernest Bramah, the exceedingly industrious and versatile author of these printed legends, had never actually been many li further East than Calais and knew not the first thing about Ancient China?

For the Bramah aficionado this may seem a poor imitation of his style, but this is how it appears to the uninitiated.

The *Walter of Kai Lung*, the first in a series of Kai Lung books that brought Ernest Bramah fame and fortune and even a fan club, is written in a style which mixes Orientalized pseudo-archaic circumlocutions and hat-belted modern colloquialisms.

He creates an absurd world of elaborate etiquette and ceremony, where true love,

PAPERBACKS

heroism and honour struggle against greed and cowardice. Supernatural events are commonplace; but the main thing that hampers everyone's pursuit of a happy life is an all-pervading and senseless bureaucracy of present day proportions.

Regardless of his lack of knowledge about Chioa, Bramah includes all the popular conceptions and misconceptions of Imperial Chinese life; essentially a mixture of puppy-pie, tea drinking, and ancestor worship.

The stories themselves are entertaining. Bramah uses the plots of familiar folk tales, such as the simple lad who makes good by making the Emperor laugh (in this case, by means of a troupe of highly trained performing locusts), the return of the nobleman's long-lost son who has grown up as a goatherd, or a variation on the Midas story.

There are some delightful characters, such as the man whose job is to catch brilliantly coloured winged insects, and whose great skill is to be able to leap high in the air and select from any passing band the one he particularly desires.

Although bogus, the Oriental philosophy that informs each tale is often telling. Spurious sayings such as: "It is

a mark of insincerity of purpose to spend one's time in looking for the sacred Emperor in the low-class tea-shops", are amusing, ironic, and true. Some of the sayings, however, reveal Bramah's wit at its weakest: "Beware lest when being kissed by the all-seeing Emperor, you step upon the chusive banana-peel."

In one of his stories, Kai Lung describes how he laboured for years to produce his masterpiece, to find that all his thoughts had all already been written centuries before by the great Lo Kuan Chang.

Sample excerpts from the work in question will give you an idea of what the joke is: "A sedan-chair! A sedan-chair! This person will unhesitatingly exchange his entire and well-regulated Empire for such an article;" and "O nobly intentioned but nevertheless exceedingly morose Tung-shin, the object before you is your distinguished and evilly-disposed-of father's honourably-inspired demon."

It is very funny if you like that sort of thing. I suspect it strays into the category described by Fowler as pedantic humour: "(although) the impulse is healthy for children... there will always be some who fail to realize that the clever habit applauded at home will make them insufferable abroad."

Annabel Edwards

One degree under

The *Adventures of Speedfall* by John Fuller (Penguin, £2.95)

John Fuller is a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. Speedfall, the character he has created to be the mainstay of these stories, is a philosophy don at an Oxford college, and immersed in the intrigues of the senior common room. He is a silly man, liable to the sort of misjudgements that lead to inconveniences sometimes bizarre, but more often just tedious. All the academic stereotypes are there: some are locked in conflict about

whether to sell off part of the college estates, others are worried about an election to an Honorary Fellowship and who is going to get it, or whose bit of research discredits someone else's. Do people in Oxford colleges really live these thin little lives or is it a wholly artificial convention? Either way, it is hard to see who, outside the academic ghetto, could be entertained by these scenes of petty jealousy, Geriatric school stories are not really appealing.

Anne Barnes

A magic Miller mural

THEATRE

The American Clock Olivier

Arthur Miller's "mural" of the American Depression may have looked good at the Cottesloe, but it looks nothing short of magnificent in its new setting: an epic work which has now found an epic stage.

Surveying the country from New York to Louisiana and deploying a company who through the playing area and auditorium as rioting farmworkers, relief queues, and dance hall customers, it expands to charge the building with life and re-enact the agony of a nation. It is hard to imagine how it was ever presented in studio conditions.

Its director, Peter Wood, has had a shaky year, but here at least he fully regains his ability to mobilize all the theatrical elements in projecting a text with maximum force and fluency.

Upstage, Timothy O'Brien presents the mural itself, a substratum of industrial scrap topped with an expanse of virgin land. The company assemble before this geological icon, walking and roller-skating round a slowly turning revolve under two giant street lamps. It is a wonderful image of the anonymous American melting pot before any individual faces emerge.

The weakest passages of the play are its pre-crash opening scenes which set up no more than a generalized sense of apprehension. Thereafter every scene tells a private as well as a public story.

This is not simply a question of autobiography. Much of the piece does relate to the Baums of Brooklyn, who are closely related to Miller's own family. But young Lee Baum (Neil Dargis) is there more to observe the lives of others than to tell his own story; and the play's most powerful episode - a re-enactment of the Iowa farmers' uprising, in



Facing the Depression: David Schofield and Barrie Ingham

which a bankrupt farmer auctions off his property for \$1 - takes leave of the Baums altogether.

What we see, through Lee's uncommitted eyes, is a country that has abruptly lost its one certain belief, and is splitting up in all directions into violence, panic, suicide, madness, and political fanaticism.

With that scenario, it is one of Miller's achievements that so much of the piece is also very funny; not only in directly comic scenes, such as that of a young song-writer (Barry James) doggedly turning out would-be hits and ignoring his mother's exhortations to marry the landlord's daughter; but also in the glancing ironies which successive scenes cast on each other.

The production is at its best in weaving patterns of that kind: part variety show, part drilled public spectacle, in the

presentational style of the 1930s, drawing heavily on music as much for domestic as for crowd scenes.

Dramatic values apart, Robert Lockhart's arrangements harvest a rich crop of Thirties jazz, romantic songs, barber shop harmonizing, and railroad blues. An unaccompanied saxophone drifts into a melancholy Gershwin prelude, a crowd assembles, and with a deafening metallic clatter one of the group throws himself into the subway.

Sara Kestelman, as the mother gradually driven into spite and mistrust, gives the tragic performance of the night.

Elsewhere, in Michael Bryant as the bankrupt father and an amazing series of high-energy Depression cameos from David Schofield, it is a story of people hanging on and sometimes coming through.

Irving Wardle

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GRATEFUL TURN'S EVENT INTO AN OCCASION

December 20-26

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

The pleasure of their company

Great party-givers are made, not born. Shona Crawford Poole spoke to three stylish - and very different - hostesses about the elusive art of entertaining

In the hurry-burry of the seasonal bacchanal there will be many to agree with whoever wrote "the hell of hosting is that one can know what things make a good hostess and still be quite unable to achieve them."

The heyday of the hostess as one who entertained sumptuously or modestly in her own home was Edwardian. Today's most talked-about parties and dinners are given by women who entertain without the armies of servants their grandmothers might have called on.

book was published, and she has little time for fuss after a full day as managing director and co-principal of Leith's School Of Food And Wine. She swears that her husband chooses and buys all her clothes without her assistance.

SCENE SETTING

"I entertain very little in Bristol and there it has to be very informal. In London, it is in the dining room. We have eight or 14. For 14 I bring in the kitchen table and William and I sit at separate tables."

GUESTS

"Obviously I entertain politicians, but not all Tories and not too many MPs at any one time or they take over the conversation completely. Also they often leave in time to vote at 10pm in the House of Commons. As a result I tend to remember occasions by what the vote was."

DRINK

"I am surprised by how much MPs drink. We don't drink very grand wine. Instead of Montrachet we drink Muscadet and instead of the very grand claret we would like, we have Fleurie. The pocket dictates."

FOOD

"I play a sort of trick on them all and see if I can get away with health food. And it does work: I have rationalized it to the point where it imitates ordinary food."

"We might have a warm salad, then poached chicken breasts with a red pepper sauce, then a pretty arrangement of fresh fruit or a sorbet. I have just started doing biscuit cups made of filo pastry filled with fruit and people have no idea that they are practically fatless."

"I used to make French dressing with yoghurt and all that but I have stopped because I just don't think it is as nice as oil."

FREQUENCY

"We have people for dinner less often now - about every



Caroline Waldegrave: "I have always relied on William to take charge of the conversation"



Nathalie Hambro: "I don't have a dinner party, as such, very often; once every 10 days, say"

three weeks. Of course there are three birthday parties, one for each of the children. I share a birthday with William and we used to have a joint party for that, a large dinner party. I don't like cocktail parties and don't go to them."

RULES

"I like to be well-prepared so that I can be relaxed. I think we are quite good at making busy people relax. I am not sure I have rules at all. I have always relied on William to take charge of the conversation. I am lost if he is not there when the evening starts."

If food and conversation at the Waldegraves could not be more modern, the formalities are the traditional ones. "We only separate if there are lots of MPs or if the point of the evening is work, and then not necessarily by sex."

Nathalie Hambro has the elegance of an antelope and a rare originality that bypasses cliché. She "wins the prize as the author I would most like to ask me to dinner". Paul Levy wrote when reviewing her first book, *Particular Delights*, for *Harpers & Queen*. In *Vogue*, Lady Harlech hailed her as a "most refreshing new voice in the cookery world".

Her business is interior design; the dining-room of her Pimlico flat doubles as the study. The walls are broadly striped in two shades of raspberry, bright and deep. Against this gaiety are paintings and prints in formal black and gold frames. Black felt to the floor dresses the circular table littered with shaded candles in crystal sticks; it is in this small and fascinating room that she entertains her friends.

"They are all very close friends, quite artistic on the whole. They have a keen eye for the aesthetic. But they can be bankers, lawyers, or they can do nothing all day. We have an exchange of ideas."

One frequent visitor is her husband, banker Anthony Hambro, from whom she is separated, and is "the most important person in my life".

She describes her entertaining style as "completely informal. It is not bohemian. It is very cosy."

SCENE SETTING

"I love candles, everywhere. I like candlelight because it is very soft, but you need a lot of candles. If you have only one or two candles you have a very hard light. Sometimes in winter I light candles for lunch. I put night-lights in little glass cups - nothing smart."

GUESTS

"I do no business while entertaining. I devote a lot of time to my business and I keep a lot of time for my friends. But I don't mix the two."

DRINK

"I notice that people are drinking less. Hardly anyone drinks anything except wine before dinner. Then they carry on with wine, or sometimes water, through dinner."

"I think that people now want to be in control. You don't get away any more with a heavy lunch with lots of drink and being inefficient in your job. And in the morning, if you are not on good form and up quite early, it does not do."

FOOD

"I give people cold food, warts sometimes but very rarely something hot. I find people work late. Sometimes they have to go and see someone for a drink. I like to have done all the work and not to be worried about the food."



Cressida Bell: "I only want to give parties where everyone who comes says it is the best party they have ever been to"

So I settle for five or six dishes - all at the same time - and pudding, cheese and fruit.

"I rarely offer meat as such although it goes into other things. I might have a Chinese salad with steamed spinach. I always have a pasta dish with rosemary, basil or thyme. Then a vegetable dish, with which I will use some nuts. I try to make all my dishes different by experimenting with different herbs or nuts or oils, but in fact it is quite simple."

"People go into the kitchen to get the food, two or three at a time. We really are very informal."

FREQUENCY

"I don't have a dinner party, as such, very often: once every 10 days, say, usually for six to eight people. I do not have larger numbers unless it is on the spur of the moment, then, if it is 12 I love it. I dislike planning more than two or three days in advance."

RULES

"There are no rules."

Cressida Bell's parties, it has been said, cost her guests an arm and a leg just to get through the front door. Typically, an invitation will command "dress carnival style, bring champagne". She says, with unshakable assurance, that "people have got used to the fact that it will be worth their while."

The daughter of art historian Professor Quentin Bell and granddaughter of Bloomsbury luminaries Clive and Vanessa Bell, she designs and prints bold textiles in darkest Hackney, last pool of affordable studio and workshop space near central London.

Her parties are as dramatic as her work. A black-and-white bash - even the food was two-tone - for 150 marked her final year at the Royal College of Art. When her birthday coincided with a royal wedding, there was a party for which the guests had to dress as kings and queens.

At the moment lack of suitable party space is cramping her larger-than-life entertaining style, which ideally involves no fewer than a hundred guests, a theme, costumes, decorations, eating, drinking, dancing and dawn ("One must not forget to have done something for lunch the next day").

She says: "I suppose I only want to give parties where everyone who comes to it says it is the best party they have ever been to. One is trying to surpass oneself all the time."

SCENE SETTING

"The visual side of my parties is very important. When I have a theme and everyone has dressed up, the whole entrance thing becomes very important. People who have decided to be too clever and worn something silly have apologized and said they felt completely out of place. If you are not wearing what I have asked you to wear, you are not part of the action. When you walk into a room and you look wonderful and everyone else looks wonderful that starts you off really well."

"I like the dressing up. Getting the men to dress up is very important. If you can get them to do it, you know you are really on to a winner."

"I've seen whole rooms full of people - who have never waltzed in their lives - really get going, carried along by the occasion."

GUESTS

"A completely mixed bunch of painters, designers, television people, lawyers, writers - all sorts. I often mix them quite radically."

Advertisement for Graham's Late Bottled Vintage featuring a cartoon illustration of people at a party and a bottle of wine. Text includes 'GRAHAM'S - FOR PANTOMIME OR PARTY!', 'GRAHAM'S LATE BOTTLED VINTAGE', and 'TURNS ANY EVENT INTO AN OCCASION'.

Advertisement for Saturday featuring a list of activities and a promotional message. Text includes 'SATURDAY', 'Boxing clever: Films to watch out for on television this Christmas - page 14', and a list of activities like Bridge, Chess, Open, Crossword, Radio, Dance, Shopping, Television, Drink, Times Cook, Galaxies, Gardening, Out and About, Open, Radio, Shopping, Television, Times Cook, Travel.

Large advertisement for Furcraft featuring a fur coat and promotional text. Text includes 'THE BIG PRE-CHRISTMAS FUR Sale', 'A fabulous selection of Hundreds of superb quality furs', 'YOUR CHANCE TO BUY THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER - NOW', and 'LONDON INTERNATIONAL HOTEL'.

old gods

curious past

Advertisement for World Illustrated Story featuring a stack of books and promotional text. Text includes 'WORLD ILLUSTRATED STORY', 'Illustrations by a strong team of artists', and 'A strong team of artists'.

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 1

Preserving the last rays of a golden past

Away from Peru's well-trodden paths of crumbling history, Nicholas Shakespeare discovers a country of dusty beauty

Admiral Caferatta lay dying in a hospital bed when I arrived in Lima. A former commander of the naval forces in Ayacucho, and now a banker, he had been shot - though not without resistance - by a group of terrorists led by a woman dressed as a school-girl. This group had since been captured. (Children playing in the suburb where they fled noticed what seemed to be red paint in the sand. Paying them for any other drops they discovered, the police found themselves on a macabre trail to the terrorists' door.)

On television there was footage of President Garcia by the Admiral's bed, investing him with the Order of the Sun. For a nation of past masters in the art of ritualizing defeat, it was another sorry celebration. "Lima the horrible," complained the surrealist poet Cesar Moro. And it is the *garua*, a moist Loocond fog which descends for half the year, combined with a heavier atmosphere of civil war - a war waged against those invisible enemies, the Senderistas. The curfew falls at one in the morning with an effect on social life which can only be circumvented by holding all-night parties. Recently, a new trend has sprung up for those wishing to get home earlier. It involves the private purchase of ambulances.

But Lima is not Peru, as the government stresses in newspaper advertisements. While this message is part of an attempt to stem the migration from the mountains to the nudling slums (now estimated at 500 a day) it is also, thank goodness, the truth. The road to Cuzco, Machu Picchu and Arequipa may be as famous and over-trodden as ever. But less well known and

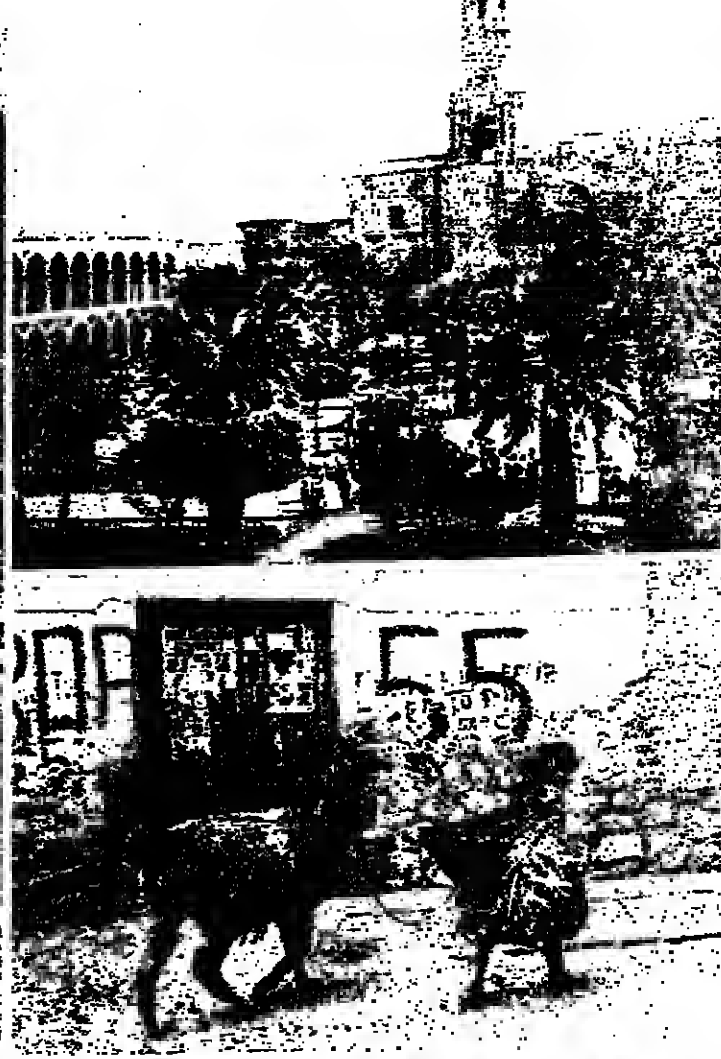
just as worthwhile for those with an appetite for adventure rather than tourism is the trail north. The sand-blown town of Piura, on the edge of the Sechura desert, is the birthplace of Peru's most famous naval officer, Miguel Grau. Admiral Grau died in 1879 on board the British-built *Huascar* after he had rammed a sandbank and then, outnumbered five to one, at the same time as the *Chimn* navy. The only relic to be recovered after the explosion of *Angamos* was a portion of the great man's leg. Inside the courtyard of his house, *oova* a museum, a green statue shows him with a bulbous nose and noble mien.



On the wall, beside his heavy furniture, are photos showing the candelabra-ed interior of *el glorioso monitor Huascar* and a black and gold sword donated, as a testimony of their profound admiration, by a group of Peruvian ladies then living in Europe.



Weaving magic spells: a native woman (left) makes a colourful shawl; the impressive, palm-filled Plaza de Armas (top) in Arequipa, and (bottom) life carries on as it has for centuries in an old Peruvian village



Life carries on as it has for centuries in an old Peruvian village

for gold. Occasionally, beside the grey coastal road, an adobe mound, rubbed into insignificance by the desert winds, denotes an old settlement. To find a more impressive testimony, one must travel inland and high into the Andes. Cuelape lies a day and a half's drive from Piura along a precipitous dirt track that plunges down cactus slopes to the Utcubamba. After Machu Picchu, it is the most spectacular ruin in Peru. The setting is probably more spectacular, on top of a mountain that commands a view and strains the eye in every direction. Yet few know of its existence. (Two tourists was the previous month's tally. One, an Air Force officer called Muenko, had sprayed his name in purple on the yellow wall.)

Flights: Journey Latin America offer the cheapest fares from London. The £500 return flight on *Viasa* takes 22 hours to Lima (via Caracas, Bogota and Madrid). Contact 16 Devonshire Road, London W4 (01-747 3108). Internal flights: Unpredictable, though it is essential to confirm your tickets at every available opportunity. Hotels: Lima: Cesar's, expensive; Bolivar, Turujillo; Opt Gar (until most hotels outside Lima, this has hot water and

TRAVEL NEWS

Crossing off high costs

Sally Lima's Ramgate Dun-kirk ferry link is offering free Channel crossings for up to three children travelling with motorists next summer.

British Rail will be operating weekend land 'cruises' through some of its most scenic lines in Scotland throughout 1987. Prices range from £140 to £195 and include all meals, overnight accommodation and sightseeing excursions.

Travelscene will be one of the few operators offering holidays based on Spain's paradises next year. The fly-drive tours use pre-booked accommodation in Catalonia, Castilla and Andalusia, with flights from Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester.

Ski holiday operators are announcing special January offers to combat slow booking due to doubts over snow conditions. Leicester-based Vacations (0533 539100) is charging a flat-rate £99 for a one-week apartment holiday with air travel from Gatwick to any of its resorts in the French Alps.

Free car hire on all stayput holidays in Florida next year is offered in a new programme from Pan American Thriftway, a subsidiary of the US airline. Travellers who do not wish to take up the offer qualify for a 513-per-week reduction in the holiday price. Information: 01-629 8262. Philip Ray

TRAVEL NOTES

Flights: Journey Latin America offer the cheapest fares from London. The £500 return flight on *Viasa* takes 22 hours to Lima (via Caracas, Bogota and Madrid). Contact 16 Devonshire Road, London W4 (01-747 3108).

also the best restaurant in town). About £10 a night. Piura: Hotel Turistas in Plaza de Armas. Chachapoyas (for Cuelape): There are four, all much of a muckness. Cajamarca: Hotel de Turistas, Plaza de Armas. Reading: *The South American Handbook* is invaluable, but do not be put off by the warnings, on every page, against thieves and pickpockets.

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: IT'S ALL AT TRAILFINDERS. PLUS: Fast, expert, high-tech service. Free worldwide hotel & rail rates. Up to 80% discounts.

AUSTRALIA: NEW ZEALAND £699 ROUND THE WORLD £309. CHRISTMAS TRAVEL. VALEXANDER: SUN 'N SNOW. TRAILFINDERS: 42-48 Ears Court Road, London W9 6EJ.

SELF-CATERING CARIBBEAN: LATEXMAS & New Year arrival to Caribbean & Seychelles with ACCOM. Call International Travel 01-249 8663 ABTA Bonded.

WINTER SPORTS: BLADON LINES: CHRISTMAS & JANUARY BARGAINS. Chalet Parties. VERBER MERIBEL SAN VIGILIO CRANS MONTANA VAL D'ISERE.

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS: HEART OF ENGLAND: FLOUGHMAN'S cottage, Royal Shroton, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. LONDON: NW5 Fitzroy Hill Holiday let.

EAST ANGLIA: CONSTANCE COUNTRY - self-catering accommodation. Suffolk. WILTSHIRE: Wiltshire Cottages, Marlborough.

UP UP & AWAY: Nairobi, 30 Burg, Cairo, Dubai, Istanbul, Singapore, Delhi, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Sydney, Mexico, Bogota, Caracas, Geneva, The Americas, Frimling Travel, 76 Shaftsbury Avenue, London W1V 7DG.

LOWEST FARES: Paris, Frankfurt, London, Rome, Athens, Madrid, Barcelona, Athens, Rome, Athens, Madrid, Barcelona, Athens.

SELF-CATERING FRANCE: PROVENCE - Houses in let in Mediterranean villages. FRANCE: FRENCH CARS - Chinese built, self-contained, economical.

SKI ITALY: SPECIAL OFFER 4 for 3. Great Value for learner & intermediate skiers in beautiful traditional villages of Formica Sopr. Prices flat sat till Half-board hotels, transfers, insurance etc.

WINTER SPORTS: TORQUAY: EAST BRINK & SO FINE. EST BRINK & SO FINE: Mainly self-catering holiday homes.

WALES: LISA COUNTRY Church Stone Cottage, Llanidloes, Powys. WILTSHIRE: Wiltshire Cottages, Marlborough.

DISCOUNTED & GROUP FARES: WORLD WIDE CRUISES: We have new fine cruise ships on offer to Europe, USA & most destinations.

SECURITY & GROUP FARES: WORLDWIDE: 18/economy. 01-387 9100. SYDNEY/NEW ZEALAND: 2000. AIR: 01-734 5007. ABTA/ATOL.

SELF-CATERING ITALY: TUSCANY AND VENICE: Probably the best villages in Italy. SELF-CATERING ITALY: TUSCANY AND VENICE: Probably the best villages in Italy.

WINTER BREAKS: BLACKPOOL: Business Licensed Hotel. 48 St. George's Road, 40 Inch, St. Annes, Lancs.

WILTSHIRE: Wiltshire Cottages, Marlborough. WILTSHIRE: Wiltshire Cottages, Marlborough.

WILTSHIRE: Wiltshire Cottages, Marlborough. WILTSHIRE: Wiltshire Cottages, Marlborough.

WINTER SPORTS: VAL D'ISERE: Self-catering apartments in Central location. VAL D'ISERE: Self-catering apartments in Central location.

HOTELS ABROAD: VENICE: HOTEL LA FENICE ET DES ARTISTES. 30124 Venia, San Marco 1305.

WINTER SPORTS: VAL D'ISERE: Self-catering apartments in Central location. VAL D'ISERE: Self-catering apartments in Central location.

WINTER SPORTS: VAL D'ISERE: Self-catering apartments in Central location. VAL D'ISERE: Self-catering apartments in Central location.

CHRISTMAS AT CASTLE KEEP HOTEL AND RESTAURANT. Kingsgate, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3PQ. Telephone Thanet (0843) 65222. SUPERS CLIFF TOP SETTING OVER THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES. Advertisements for the following issues: Saturday 27th December, Monday 29th December, Tuesday 30th December, Tuesday 23rd December 6pm. To place your advertisements please telephone 01-481 4000.

TRAVEL 2

Miles of smiles in sun valley

Cindy Selby goes real cross-country skiing on the Swiss and French borders

Someone suggested we visit a slate mine. In fact, it was M Neuveville, manager of our Hotel Fleur de Neige...

Were these to be sacrificed for some gloomy old cave? No. We decided the skiing was far more important.

Our chosen resort, Châtel, is a traditional Savoyard village of wooden chalets. Even when it becomes the target of skiers from nearby Geneva...

The Portes du Soleil takes its name from the ridge at the heart of a dozen resorts scattered on either side of the Franco-Swiss border...

Skiers can explore a new valley every day and you are constantly zig-zagging over the border between the seven French and five Swiss resorts...

On one of our days we were able to ski the broad slopes of Châtel and Super-Châtel (above the tree line) as well as a circuit within the circuit...

continue on the inner circuit to the modern resort of Avoriaz and on to Châtel.

Skiers cannot rely on adequate snow in December or April; and even in March the bottoms of the runs can be mushy.

The major bonus is the giant and varied terrain but Châtel, in particular, has further attractions. Being French it is slightly cheaper than the Swiss resorts.

Accommodation in Châtel is in hotels or apartments. The resort is ideal for families since it has a ski-kindergarten for 3 to 8-year-olds and even a nursery for babies.

Beginners, young and old, will find the ski instructors competent and caring. The Châtel ski school assembles on the nursery slope right by the Hotel Fleur de Neige.

On one of our days we were able to ski the broad slopes of Châtel and Super-Châtel (above the tree line) as well as a circuit within the circuit...

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TRAVEL NOTES

Global organize skiing holidays to Châtel, Champoussin and Avoriaz. A week, half-board, at the Hotel Fleur de Neige costs from £244 in January to £342 in February.

Walker Art Gallery: Children's quiz with which to tour the gallery entitled The 12 Days of Christmas.

Museum of London: Programme of children's events and family sessions to coincide with the current exhibition of dolls, Hello Dolly.

Manchester City Art Galleries: Gallery Gallop: A Christmas Cavalcade of Horses is a holiday activity linked to the Alfred Munnings exhibition...

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery: Oregami Christmas tree decoration workshops for all the family.

National Portrait Gallery: Quiz sheet - Understanding Portraits: The Killigrew Test plus a series of drama workshops entitled 'Portrait in which body language - how and why people posed for their portraits - is explored and re-enacted.'

National Maritime Museum: Christmas Planetarium shows - The Stars at Christmas and Exploring the Planets. Suitable for all ages.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OUTINGS Fun and games for busy bodies

Many museums and art galleries run special events for children of all ages throughout the Christmas holidays...

ROYAL SCOTTISH MUSEUM: Art competition for children under 16 - paper, pencil and rubber provided.

LIVERPOOL MUSEUM: Anglo-Saxon activities for 8-11 year olds with dressing-up sessions and workshops.

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY: Oregami Christmas tree decoration workshops for all the family.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES: Children's workshop with more than 100 different exhibitions from the permanent collection to 'discover'.

MANCHESTER CITY ART GALLERIES: Gallery Gallop: A Christmas Cavalcade of Horses is a holiday activity linked to the Alfred Munnings exhibition.

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NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM: Christmas Planetarium shows - The Stars at Christmas and Exploring the Planets.

HAMPTON COURT PALACE: Four workshops - In date printing, Christmas tree decorating, Guatemalan weaving, Indian embroidery.

MUSEUM OF LONDON: Programme of children's events and family sessions to coincide with the current exhibition of dolls.

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES: Children's workshop with more than 100 different exhibitions from the permanent collection to 'discover'.



Ice and a slice of clown capers: The Snowman (top) at the Barbican and circus world entertainment in Battersea park

This includes story-telling sessions, practical workshops for dressing up and paper dolls and on Jan 4 ballet workshops, learning steps from Coppelia with members of the Sadler's Wells Ballet Company...

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM: For children and families, gallery trails for the permanent collection.

HORNIMAN MUSEUM: Art and craft workshops for children aged eight and over, each with a different theme.

COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE: Anansi and the Sky God - Caribbean story-telling with music, dance and plenty of audience participation.

TATE GALLERY: Christmas Tree Guessing Game with prizes. Lectured by Laurence Bradbury - Prodigies in Paint - explaining how famous artists painted when young.

NATIONAL GALLERY: Christmas quiz - Fiery Tales - looks at candles, bonfires, flaming torches and other fiery elements in the gallery's paintings.

BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD: Story-telling sessions and workshops based on making Christmas decorations and sweets.

SCIENCE MUSEUM: Wizards of Steam - a series of demonstrations showing how concepts of steam were put into practice with results that changed the world.

BARBICAN CENTRE: Children's Christmas party with film and live entertainment today, 11am and 2.30pm - no adults admitted.

ROYAL COURT PALACE: Four workshops - In date printing, Christmas tree decorating, Guatemalan weaving, Indian embroidery, quilt design, print calendars, clay calendars, Indian clay designs, plus a family clown/circus workshop for parents and/or children aged 8-12.

ROYAL COURT PALACE: Four workshops - In date printing, Christmas tree decorating, Guatemalan weaving, Indian embroidery, quilt design, print calendars, clay calendars, Indian clay designs, plus a family clown/circus workshop for parents and/or children aged 8-12.

Victorian Court dress and discover its history, play traditional party games, animal mask and face painting, demonstration of 17th-century harpsichord music, treasure hunt, making board games and a Victorian optical toy.

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IN THE GARDEN



Blue spruce: like most Christmas trees it is much happier outside in its natural habitat

Top shots for the pot

I would not be so dismal as to criticize the Great Norwegian Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square or those which, over the last few decades, have become the focus of seasonal celebrations - in towns and villages all over the country.

The needle drop, which is so irritating to the housewife, represents a great trauma for a little tree brought inside to the hot conditions of central living rooms as it tries desperately to prevent moisture loss.

Francesca Greenoak gives some tips on choosing and caring for Christmas trees

can be outdoors for most of the year and its pot brought inside only for two to three weeks. A particularly beautiful conifer is the Japanese cedar Cryptomeria japonica, which comes in dwarf varieties like Elegans Nana and grows only to about three feet. It has the most delicate feathery foliage which turns red-bronze in winter.

Some nurserymen recommended instead the Monterey cypress, Cupressus macrocarpa, which has yellow-green foliage. This hardy tree does fairly well if it

CHESS

Fading fortunes of a tired champion

Will Karpov win his Candidates' match with Sokolov early in 1987? On paper, the former world champion must be the clear favourite, but after the exertions of his latest title match...

White: Ljubojevic; Black: Karpov. Ruy Lopez, Yugoslavia v USSR, Dubai Olympiad 1986

Black can recapture the pawn after 38... Rxe1+ 39 Bxe1 Qe6 40 Bd2 Qxh3 but 41 Qd8 leaves White well on top.

Black resigned Raymond Keene

Black resigned Raymond Keene

Black resigned Raymond Keene

BRIDGE

Stranger than fiction

Nearly 40 years ago, Robert Darvas wrote a remarkable book, a bridge fairy story, called Right through the Pack. His fantasy was that a pack of cards came to life, and each card had a tale to tell in which it played a critical role.

Teams. Love all. Dealer South.

Teams. Love all. Dealer North.

I was East. Declarer won my ♠ with the ♠A and played a heart to dummy's King and my Ace. Correctly, I switched to the ♣7. Declarer, needing miracles, tried the ♠J and ducked in dummy when my partner produced the ♣K. West returned the ♠2 and declarer played dummy's Ace.

Declarer ruffed a diamond and drew the outstanding trump. After successfully finessing the ♣Q and cashing the ♠A, declarer completed

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Portrait of a Self-made City PETER NEWBOLD. For a free copy of this entertaining and informative book...

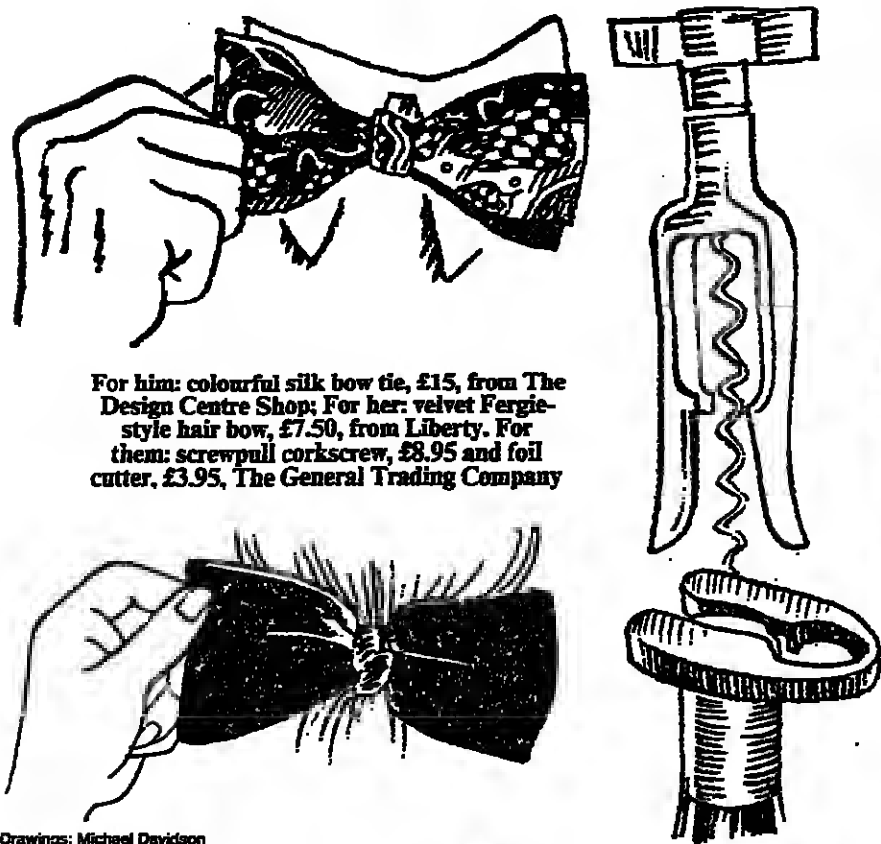
THE INCREDIBLE SEED CATALOGUE. Major gardeners' reference book of plants in full colour, 220 pages, 1500 illustrations, nearly 4000 varieties. Fully informative when and how to plant. Rare, unusual and to-die-for. Quality, unobtainable by mail order. Secured with FREE copy, posted now. Write: Thompson & Morgan, Dept 23 London Road, Letchworth SG8 5BA. Tel 24 hrs (0471) 699757.

BAHAMAS It's Better In The Bahamas. Close your eyes. Imagine a school of flying fish breaking the sparkling blue surface of the sea in a silvery shower. This is The Bahamas. Imagine a land where the pursuit of luxury has

Speedbird WORLDWIDE. Now turn that dream into reality. Wake up to Speedbird, specialists in long haul holidays for over 20 years, where 7 nights in The Bahamas can cost you as little as £528.

LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING

Stocking



For him: colourful silk bow tie, £15, from The Design Centre Shop; For her: velvet Fergie-style hair bow, £7.50, from Liberty. For them: screwdriver, £8.95 and foil cutter, £3.95, The General Trading Company

Drawings: Michael Davidson



Red and silver chocolate dragees, £2.99, and Christmas tea, 85p 100g, The Tea House; Fortnum & Mason quarter-bottle champagne, £3.15, individual Christmas pudding £1.10

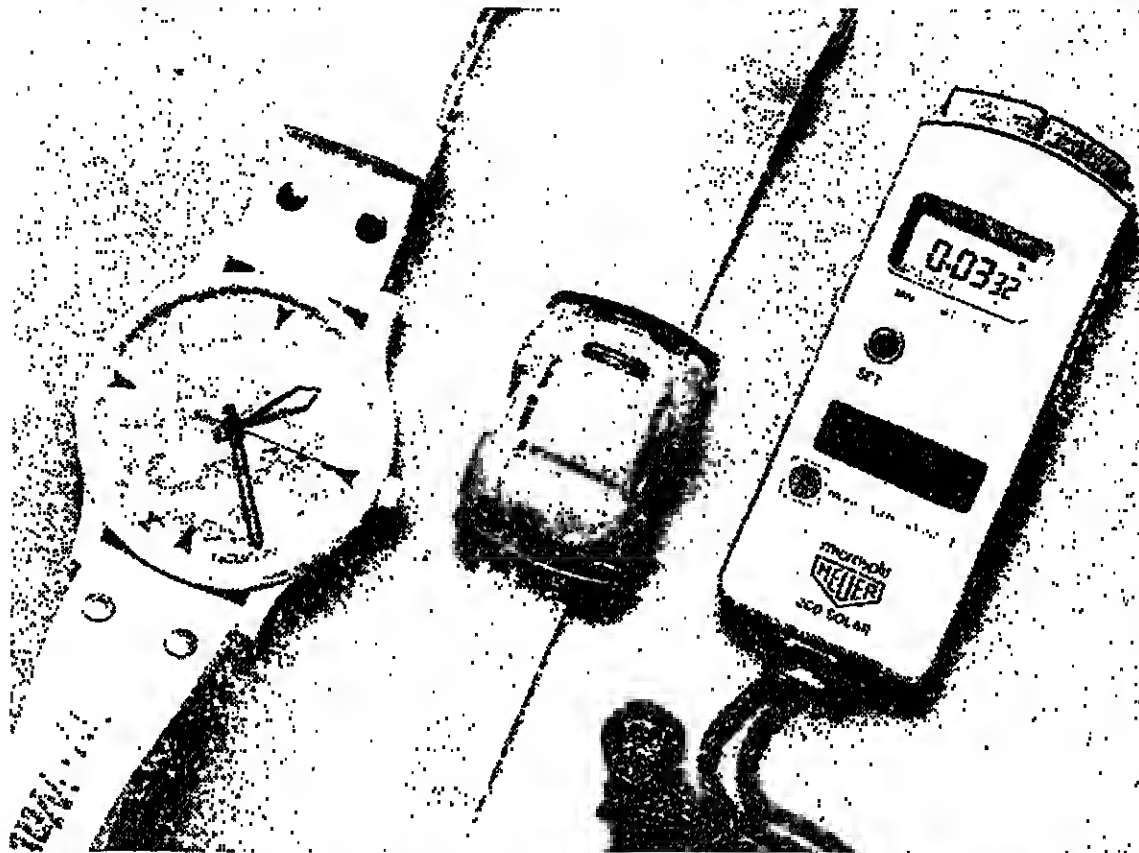
thrillers



For wise men: sandalwood carved owl, £4.85, The General Trading Company. For a little cracker: Orient Express label silk knickers, £15.95, Liberty; Art Deco-style brooches, from £15.90, The General Trading Company

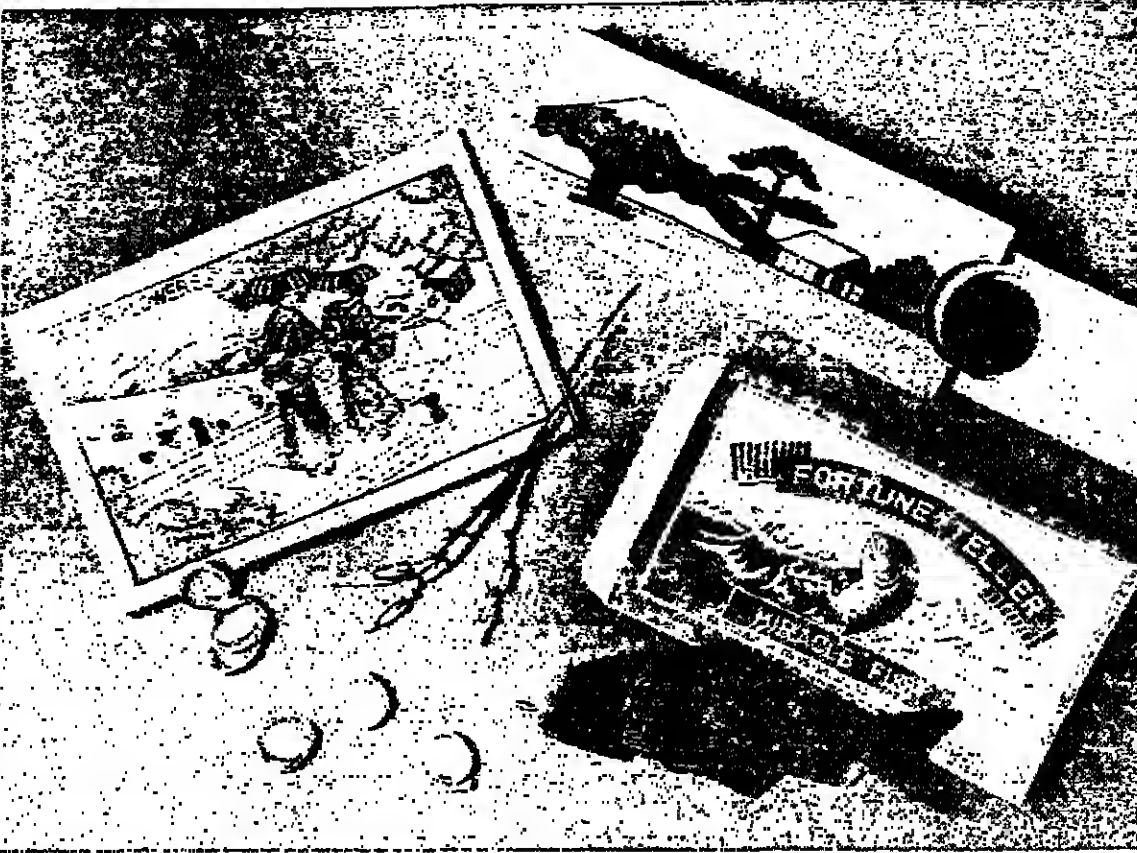
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Authentic: 42 Shelton Street, WC2; The Design Centre Shop: 28 Haymarket, SW1; Fortnum & Mason: 181 Piccadilly, W1; The General Trading Company: 144 Sloane Street, SW1; Liberty: Regent Street, W1; Neal Street East: 5-7 Neal Street, WC2; Oggetti: 100 Jermyn Street, SW1 and 133 Fulham Road, SW3; Presents: 129 Sloane Street, SW1; The Tea House: 15a Neal Street, WC2; The Watch Gallery: 129 Fulham Road, SW3



Skywatch, £99, Watch Gallery; VW watch, £10.95, Presents; Heuer solar power watch, £77.50, Authentics

Asop to entertain excited children while you snatch an extra hour's sleep on Christmas morning? A tantalizing taste of presents to come? Whatever you feel about seasonal stockings, one thing is for sure: they offer a test of ingenuity when it comes to filling them. No doubt we all follow our own time-honoured traditions in choosing their contents - a tangerine in the toe, perhaps, or bags of golden chocolate coins - and, certainly, sweets, nuts and fruit are easy to buy at the last minute. But, to track down a handful of quirky trifles, jokes and minor whimsies, it's a question of sifting through the shops to spot these pleasing treasures lurking among the tacky junk and vulgar puns which often pass for mini-gifts. To save time and personal energy in the last few shopping days before Christmas, we've come up with a stockingful of bright ideas, for adults and children, guaranteed to elicit a giggle.

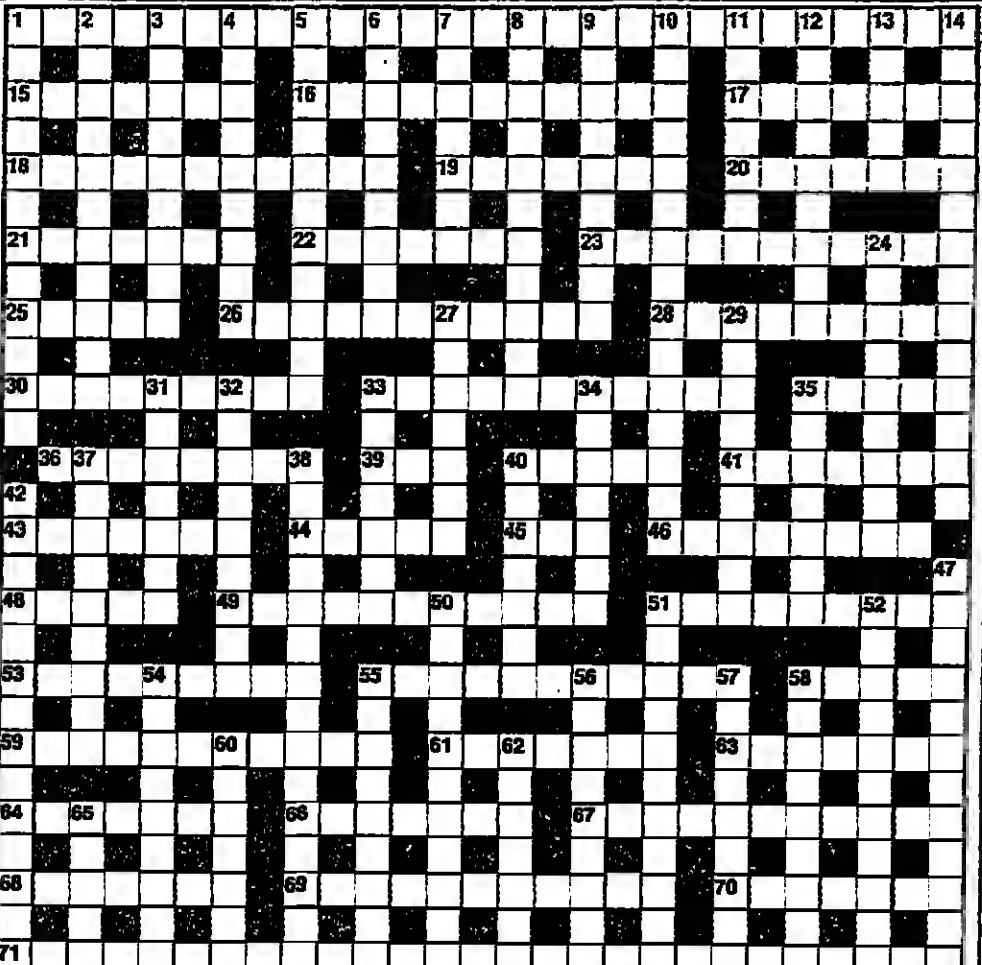


Japanese water flowers, 36p; Vanishing coin trick, £1.85; Fortune telling fish, 2p, all from Neal Street East

Jumbo Crossword

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Tuesday January 6, 1987. Entries should be addressed to The Times Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday January 10.

- ACROSS**
- Reason given for the vanishing of the Baker (alias "Fritter-my-wig") (3,3,5,3,1,6,3,3)
 - Note terrible curse from which one such saves us? (7)
 - Aristotle so footloose a philosopher (11)
 - One politician learning to beg (7)
 - Notes stream meandering nearest to the rising sun (11)
 - See about Italian river resort in Switzerland (7)
 - Not that these cats show mutual attachment (7)
 - Making four in the test is oustatory (7)
 - This spoon means the end for Samuel Whiskers (3-4)
 - Father for instance chasing trains, missing one, it's obvious (11)
 - Macheth with a new title apparently? (5)
 - Start term in revision of the origin of radio (11)
 - A queso's favourite cheese (9)
 - Once keeping in bed, that's following instructions (9)
 - "An arm, clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful" one employed on state occasions (5-6)
 - Writer twice interrupted by a song of triumph (5)
 - Member of university of no practical importance (8)
 - Io Rome I say nothing (3)
 - It's said some lions were so inquisitive (5)
 - The case is altered for schools (7)
 - How to start a journey when in progress in France (7)
 - In the body of the church one appears ingenious (5)
 - Topless style of Horace's work (3)
 - Toys carelessly when eating cheese - it's the judge's condition (8)
 - A chore, transposing words, in define his dance? (5)
 - The fallacious reasoner holds nothing for, say, Madame Blavatsky (11)
 - Queues said to be short for these matters for debate (9)
 - Male composer, it's said, we have to treat roughly (9)
 - Pooh-Bah's added detail was intended so to confirm Ko-Ko's narrative (11)
 - Winter sportsman's high-ball? (5)
 - Edible fungus which the banjo-player plucked (11)
 - "That — was I turn'd into a hart" (T. Night) (7)
 - Writer of books not like the revised version (7)
 - Roused by the tocsin nearly everyone prepared for battle (7)
 - Leaders of early Christian revival in face of condemnation (7)
 - Disturbed by nake, strange creeper (of the highest order?) (6-5)
 - My "Ichabod" confession comes to a dead end (7)
 - Musical girl forbidden to see Japanese drama (2,2,7)
- DOWN**
- Process of brewing involves foe? No matter (12)
 - Revive organization of cruises with funny old Harry (11)
 - Manager at home with oodles and thread (9)
 - A minor source gives odds on Curly-lock (9)
 - Set apart for a purpose that's suitable (11)
 - Cornel inflammation from a strike perhaps outside it (9)
 - A large lumber draw on a Roman flask (7)
 - Pronounced this to be a type of vehicle (11)
 - Stopper used by a surgeon, but awkwardly, the speaker holds (9)
 - House-builder skilled in every department of work (4,2,3,6)
 - One has some difficulty with one's understatement (7)
 - One from this institution would be safe from the Pirates of Penzance (9)
 - Gem's weight much more than a carat (5)
 - Simplicity of the reasoning that impressed Doyle's doctor (14)
 - Bag outside church or jump on the stage (9)
 - This form of element is nothing to a small shark (7)
 - Tending to show anger about tribal development (9)
 - I entered, in English and French, natives of Asia and America (7)
 - Remarkable about bird put up for the job (9)
 - Chin, second kind (7)
 - Distinguishing some of them in entertainment (7)
 - Musician from an island in hell (7)
 - Schizophrenic state of a volunteer force in frenzied action (9)
 - Alexander's music 5 to close this social function? (10,5)
 - Condition is for aod against one in this way (7)
 - With hammers oovices can make a power-control contrivance (5-9)
 - Alienation of unusual characters in a science fiction film (12)
 - Divided into sections to find eligible bachelor to dine perhaps (11)
 - American style suit seeo on board ship? (7-4)
 - Able to produce nothing indigenous round the Swiss mouleto (11)
 - Growth of Times misrepresented in song (9)
 - Far from dim to bars (9)
 - To this butterfly William's house appears a dump (6-3)
 - Her sunnie embarrassed to be called such a mammal? (9)
 - One that dips into the cellar on board (4-5)
 - Soldier leads learned cleric always to the bootsman's quarry (3,4)
 - Attendant of Dionysus unless one is mistaken (7)
 - One of those quivering by the Lady of Shalott's river (5)

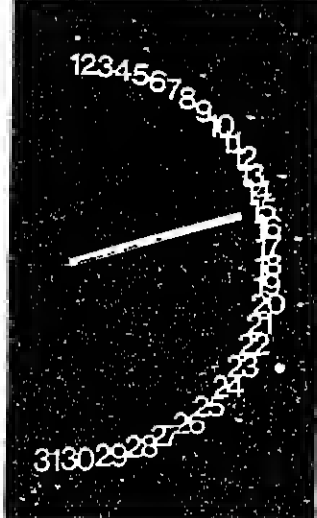


Concise Jumbo Crossword

- There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Saturday December 27
- ACROSS**
- Jane Montgomery Campbell farmers' harvest hymn (2,6,3,6,3,7)
 - Entertainment industry (7)
 - Statement clarifier (11)
 - Without apparent sex (7)
 - Top floor (5,6)
 - Noo-Jewish girls (7)
 - Open air cinema (5,2)
 - Grow together (7)
 - With hammers oovices can make a power-control contrivance (5-9)
 - Happening in spells (11)
 - Worthless matter (5)
 - Express vocal encouragement! (5,1,5)
 - Consecrates (9)
 - Giving back (9)
 - Large urban complex (11)
 - Israel/Syria Heights (5)
 - Cider brandy (8)
 - Batsman's score (3)
 - Setback (5)
 - Sets fire to (7)
 - Coming from south (7)
 - Expensive money leading (5)
 - Small ocean (3)
 - Confine (8)
 - Feudal lord (5)
 - Ineffective (11)
 - Complete circle (4,5)
 - Omission (9)
 - Gate guards (11)
 - Gasps (5)
 - State without pleasure (11)
 - Personal belongings (7)
 - Swagger (7)
 - Line walls again (7)
 - Swarm over (7)
 - Substantial quantity (5,6)
 - Red, purple, pink hardy annual (7)
 - Abrupt utterance (11)
 - Fixed habits (3,4)
 - Violent movement opposed to Algerian independence. (12,2,1,5,7)
 - Change causing (9)
 - Compulsion (7)
 - Discharge (9)
 - Coin face (7)
 - Gratifying (9)
 - Large tent (7)
 - Ship journey (7)
 - Applicable to group (7)
 - Gravely (9)
 - Impulse (4,2,3,6)
 - Loosen (7)
 - Joshua's trumpet target (5,2,7)
 - Discriminating faculty (5,2,5)
 - Not subterranean (5,6)
 - Not be oneself (4,7)
 - Talk together (11)
 - Fleece (9)
 - Utterly reckless type (9)
 - "Excellent" (9)
 - Dives under water (9)
 - Advocating practical attitude (9)
 - Be superior (7)
 - Windmill rudder sail (7)
 - Crash (5)
- SOLUTION TO NO 1131 (last Saturday's prize concise)**
- ACROSS:** 1 Sacrum 4 Cravat 7 Fury 8 Crocodile 9 Port-Au-Prince 15 Archer 16 Abound 17 Piece of eight 23 Hausfrau 24 Rile 25 Recess 26 Prayer
- DOWN:** 1 Sift 2 Cartouche 3 Mecca 4 Creep 5 Assai 6 Aztec 10 Theme 11 Rahih 12 Naughtily 13 Ends 14 Palp 18 Irate 19 Caste 20 Ogres 21 Equip 22 Jeer 58 Gasps (5)
- The winners of prize concise No 1131 are: Mrs J. Wilson, Underhill Road, Cleodan, Tyne and Wear; Peter L. Ogier, Les Hubits, St. Martin, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

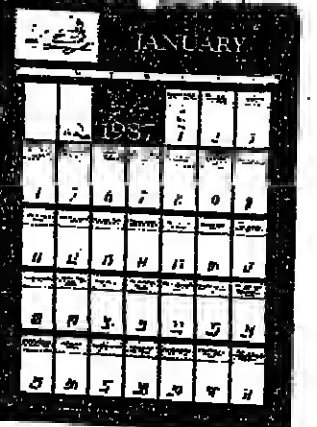
In calendars are bang up to date

It had to happen. Designer calendars have hit the home. Once a blueprint for the essential minimalist accessory in hi-tech offices, stark black and white calendars - with perhaps the odd splodge of designer red - are the prevailing style when it comes to date-checking in the kitchen, home office and living room these days. In fashionable black and red, Oggetti's 2½ foot-high wall-hung metal model, £43.25, looks more like a clock than a reminder of the date. The red arm twists round in a half moon to give the date while a magnetic red blob marks the relevant month. Another Oggetti agenda, £24.60, screams out the date with numbers sizeable enough for the most myopic. A barely-readable list in the corner of



Oggetti's 2½ ft high wall-hung Meridiana clock-style metal calendar costs £43.25

Daily Trivia calendar, £2.99 from Paperchase, with a jumboree bag of monthly "not-a-lot-of-people-know-thats" information, and the Trivial Pursuit calendar, £2.99 from W. H. Smith. But perhaps some of the most visually appealing calendars in the current crop are the pictorial ones which seem to have more in common with glossy illustrated hardback books. Particularly striking are three from Liberty: a Guatemala Rainbow Calendar, £11.95, showing the traditional brightly-coloured handwoven costumes of Mayan culture; Bruno Zehender's delightful photographs from the Antarctic in the Penguin Calendar, £7.95; and the Orchild Calendar, £5.95, with its spectacular colour photographs of exotic blooms. Of course, there's the usual plethora of pictorial calendars produced to please dog-lovers, cat-lovers, horse fanciers and weary executives who appreciate a wry Glen Baxter joke to keep up their spirits. There are calendars for Tolkien fans, railway buffs, Hollywood film addicts, admirers of our national heritage - both hardware and landscape - and anyone who prefers their garden indoors rather than out. Royal Portraits both ancient and modern - with paintings, for example, from the National Portrait Gallery or those of the Prince and Princess of Wales - can also be hung. Children and grown-up children are catered for with the Pooh calendar, shaped like a honey-pot, £3.50 from Scribblers; the Teddy Bear calendar, £4.95 from Athens; Adrian Mole's calendar-cum-diary, £3.50 from W. H. Smith; The



Trivial Pursuit calendar, £2.99, with a quiz question each day, from branches of W. H. Smith

Wisden's Cricket Diary The telephone number for Wisden Cricketer's Diary, available from Save the Children, featured on December 6, is 01-703 5400

Name _____
Address _____

Another Prize Jumbo Crossword will appear on January 1.

DRINK

Just before you visit your local wine retailer, Jane MacQuitty offers a guide to reds and whites for Christmas celebrations

The best of the chain gangs on trial

Christmas comes but once a year and with it the opportunity for us all to forget the bank balance and to splash out on a starchy bottle or two of the finest wines the world produces.

Finding these costly and usually classic charmers is generally much easier than tracking down good wines at cheap prices. But this year I wanted to make certain that everyone had the opportunity to buy The Times' best Christmas bottles. So I asked the largest of wine retailers in the country (those with at least 200 licenced branches or more) to put forward a top Christmas white and Christmas red.

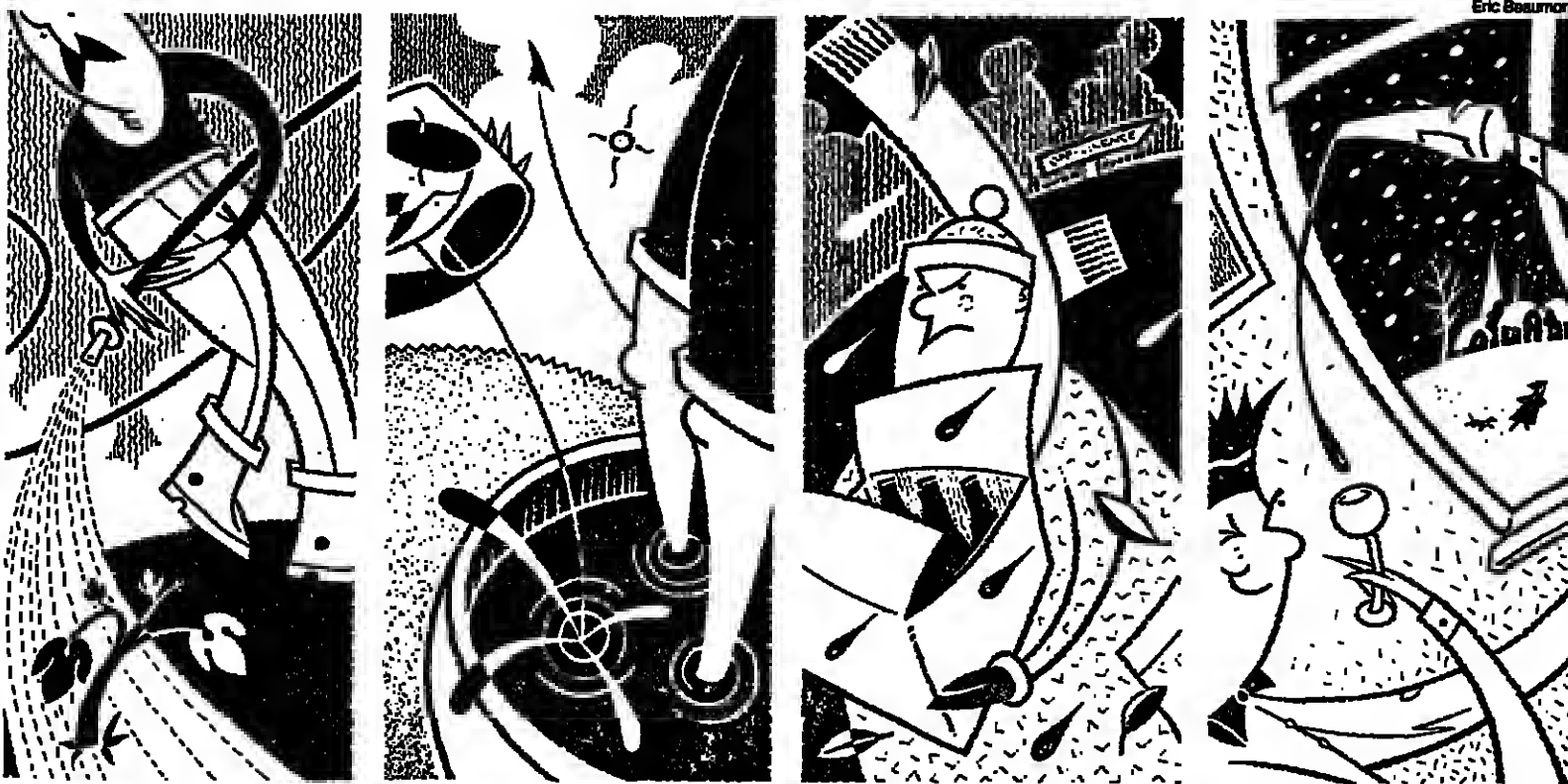
Each retailer was told that the wines had to suit seasonal food (but not necessarily just turkey), be priced under £10 a bottle and that value for money would be taken into account. In addition I stressed that whatever wines the retailers put forward they would have to be widely available; 10 cases of Chateau Christmas sold via one branch would not be a suitable contender.

Sadly despite the strength and importance of their festive sales few wine buyers I spoke to rose to meet this Christmas challenge.

Joining me (JMQ) in this blind Christmas tasting were John Higgins (JH) Arts Editor of The Times, Robin Young (RY) also from The Times and Master of Wine Adam Bracoff (AB) from the Burgundy specialists Domaine Direct.

We all found this Christmas tasting a disappointment. It was especially worrying, too, to note that few buyers were prepared to put forward wines which cost more than £6 a bottle and only two went close to the £10 limit.

Yet surely at Christmas time we all deserve a treat or two? Or is it just that all those pricey and prestigious wines that appear on off-licence lists are only ever available in infuriatingly small quantities? Never mind, all the wines which fall into our "Top of the Tree" and "Christmas Crackers" categories will certainly help to ensure that your Christmas celebrations are a success.



1981 Torres Gran Coronas, Penedes. Threshers £4.89 This "sunburnt spicy hefty peppery red" (JMQ) will be at its best only with the chunkiest Christmas foods. AB was kinder noting this "ripe attractive blockbuster will keep the cold out". As was RY: "Good Christmas supper party red" and JH: "Easy drinking".

1981 Marques de Murrieta Estiqueta Blanca, Yggy, Roberts & Cooper £3.99 Again the "warm spicy sunburnt plum jam like nose and taste" (JMQ) of this Spanish red may not be everyone's idea of the perfect festive wine but AB thought it would be "good with game" and JH "excellent nose; I'd be happy with this".

BORDERLINE

Franzia Cabernet Sauvignon. Victoria Wine £2.99 A cheap price, but sadly a taste to match: "Herbaceous grassy nose but a palate that is too sweet, jammy and confectioned for Christmas" noted JMQ. No one else disagreed: "Oversweet, not much backbone or tannin" (AB) and RY: "Sweetened up too much".

1981 Chateau de Pez, Saint Estephe. Peter Dominic £7.25. A disappointment considering the good name of this chateau. JMQ thought it had a "not unpleasant light truffly nose and taste but was too thin for Christmas drinking"; AB similarly noted "Mushroomy nose, rather loose knit". JH was the harshest critic: "Doggy nose... undistinguished".

FESTIVE FAILURES

Beaujolais, Alexandre Silvestre. Presto £2.59 Not a bottle any of us would want to face on Christmas Day: "Acidic, cooked light strawberry/raspberry Beaujolais red" wrote JMQ; "Rather lacking in charm and fruit" (AB); "Anaemic, acidic" (JH).

1981 Chateau Lachapelle, cru bourgeais, Haut Medoc. Augustus Barnett £5.49 This "aggressive, rough farmyardy stuff" (JMQ) would bring little joy at Christmas. RY felt it was "unimpressive rather woody claret" and JH "musty".

WHITE WINES

TOP OF THE TREE

1985 Sancerre, Domaine des Trois Pressoirs, Pierre et Etienne Riffault. Threshers £5.85 An ultra-stylish Sancerre that won hands down in the whites: "Lovely zingy chalky gooseberry-green Sancerre class... excellent as a Christmas aperitif and with the first course" (JMQ); "Classic Sauvignon... superb, begs of fruit" (AB); "enjoyable aperitif-style Sancerre" (RY). An unexpected Thresher's triumph.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

1985 Venegazzi Pinot Grigio, Conte Lovadan, Augustus Barnett £3.49 Italy's only offering here makes a good inexpensive white Christmas all-rounder. JMQ enjoyed its "zippy flowery-herbaceous small and berry-sugar like taste". RY similarly picked up "a boiled sweets note" finding it "refreshing, invigorating and flavourful".

1985 Montana Chardonnay. Oddbins and Gough Bros £3.99 New Zealand's Chardonnays have come of age as this south island white demonstrated:

"Classy pineapple-like Chardonnay nose plus a fresh leafy-apple New Zealand palate" (JMQ); "A pleasing warm toasty flavour" (RY); "honeyed nose agreeable with the turkey" (JH); "ripe peachy nose, oaky tones... a Chardonnay treat" (AB).

1982 Sainsbury's Blanc de Blancs Brut Vintage Champagne, Linaud Gontier, Sainsbury's £3.95 Sainsbury's new own-label vintage bubbly had an "attractive flowery-pineapple Chardonnay scent but a young sharpish taste" (JMQ) and was "light and green in flavour" (RY). As AB and JH put it this youthful fizz would make either "a good bottle to start Christmas Day" or also would "work well as a pre-Christmas lunch drink".

CHRISTMAS CHEER

1985 Domaine de Cabrières, Chateau-neuf-du-Pape, Louis

Amsud, Peter Dominic £6.52 A useful Christmas runner-up blessed with a "fresh green zesty herbaceous bouquet and taste... again a lively Christmas Day aperitif and first course wine" (JMQ). RY thought its "pleasant lemon-buttery flavour" would come in useful with the Christmas buffet as did AB: "Good weight for Christmas food".

1985 White Burgundy Groupement de Producteurs de Lugny-St-Gengoung-de-Sicasse, Marks & Spencer £4.89 "A good fruity Christmas aperitif but too soft for the spiciest festive fare" queried JMQ as did RY "could work with starter"; AB similarly noted "soft fruit, soft palate". All in all a useful Christmas aperitif while without the guts or depth to cope either with spicy stuffings or meats.

BORDERLINE

1985 Chateau de la Casemichère, Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine, Domaine de Banaud, Victoria Wine £3.59 Given the cold weather at Christmas time Muscadet is not perhaps the most

appropriate of white wines. However this "palatable flowery-apple Muscadet" (JMQ) would probably go down well with a fishy first course. RY found it "a bit aggressive for the season of goodwill" and both JH and AB thought it "lacked character".

1985 Sancerre, Vacheron, Tesco £5.49 There was a world of difference between this and our Top of the Tree Sancerre: JMQ noted "green chalky Sancerre nose but dull and sweet with it"; AB: "Well-made but lacks exuberance" RY: "Dull, flat, neutral" and JH "Very light in colour and taste".

FESTIVE FAILURES

1985 Chateau d'Avrillé Chardonnay, Vin de Pays du Maine & Loire, Roberts & Cooper £2.89 "Water-white colour, elegant smoky nose but dull dirty taste" was JMQ's verdict here. Everyone else agreed: "Unpleasant really crab dry wine" (RY); "Very ordinary" (AB); JH spotted it as "very young Loire" adding "difficult

to know when and what to drink this with". Quite.

1984 Chablis Premier Cru Vuilons, A Bichot, Unwins £3.95 Chablis should be truly ashamed of itself; everyone gave this pricey premier cru their lowest mark: JMQ noted "Wet straw and wet dog"; RY: "Not much pleasure in this"; JH: "Dreadful - wouldn't have it in the house" and AB, who detected its Chablis source, "Earthy animal-like nose".

RED WINES

TOP OF THE TREE

1984 Chateau-neuf-du-Pape, Les Amevets, J R Quet, Tesco £5.29 This "very classy" red Chateau-neuf with "delicious

light spicy Syrah fruit and the backbone to cope with the festive fare" would be a perfect and popular choice with all the family. RY thought its "good fruit and rich attractive flavour would cope with Christmas lunch of either duck, goose or turkey". AB enjoyed its "berried nose" and "sweet tobacco-like fruit and spice".

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

1974 Chateau-neuf-du-Pape, Domaine Guy Mauret, Unwins £3.19 Another red Chateau-neuf with "delicious ripe spicy-smoky cinnamon fruit and backbone, oak and depth" (JMQ). RY, like AB, enjoyed its "rich gamey fruit and oak" but like JH thought it "possibly a bit austere for some tastes". Its distinctive mature style does not have the universal appeal of Tesco's Chateau-neuf.

1982 Orlando R F Cabernet Sauvignon, G Cramp & Sons, Oddbins and Gough Bros £3.99 Everyone at the Christmas table will enjoy the "sweet

EATING OUT

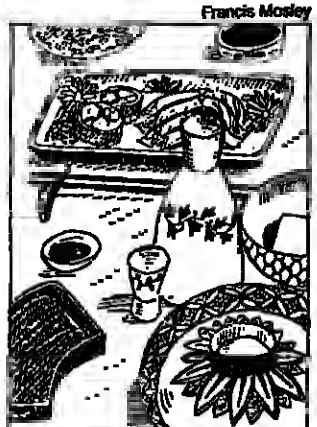
Raw deals and saké

London's Japanese restaurants, unlike its French or Italian ones, are, all of them, dependent on Japanese custom. And their hefty prices are determined by the fact that they are expensive account perks.

Squeezed between a sandwich bar and a minicab outfit, so implausibly theatrical that it might have jumped out of Mona Lisa, I found a window with a crimson kimono and a sign saying Gobei.

As in all these places, you glean a piece of scalp disease as you enter, through the pendent swaths of ritual rag. By our table was a Calor heater with leaflets advertising the products of Furusato Foods of Camden. Furusato is evidently a useful outfit. With its supplies and a modicum of nous we can all go Japanese.

I suppose the provenance of the grub doesn't matter as long as it's good. Most of Gobei's "cooking" is all right, though the battered king prawns and veg are of chip-shop greasiness. Sashimi (raw fish) which is the glory of the Japanese



kitchen, although it has more to do with filleting and arty presentation than with cooking, here comprises: salmon, octopus, turbot, cuttle-fish, tuna and a couple of species that the bemused waitress didn't know the Japanese name of, let alone the English. The usual green mustard and soy dressing was just that - the usual, but fine and fiery as ever.

We also ate buckwheat noodles in a sweetish broth, a chicken kebab with a precu-

ror of HP sauce and, another palate-fryer this one, bean curd with ginger sauce. A plate of thinly sliced raw beef that I'd like to have eaten raw was shoved on the table along with a piece of equipment from an under-the-arches garage - two gas burners connected to yet another Calor cylinder. A grill was fitted on the top of the burners and we were invited to grease this piece of metal with a quoit of beef fat.

Restaurants are for eating in, kitchens for cooking in. The "breaking down of the barrier" reduces the former to gaming places. The whole point is not to participate in the creation - we all have stoves, we all have the address of Furusato Foods. While this boy scout primus-stove stuff was going on, a stream of men had been slipping by. I followed them. Out back, from a room past the lavatories, came the dry rustle of a knot of rattlers. Within, when I peeked, was a mahjong rally - heads down, Chivas Regal everywhere. £50 for two.

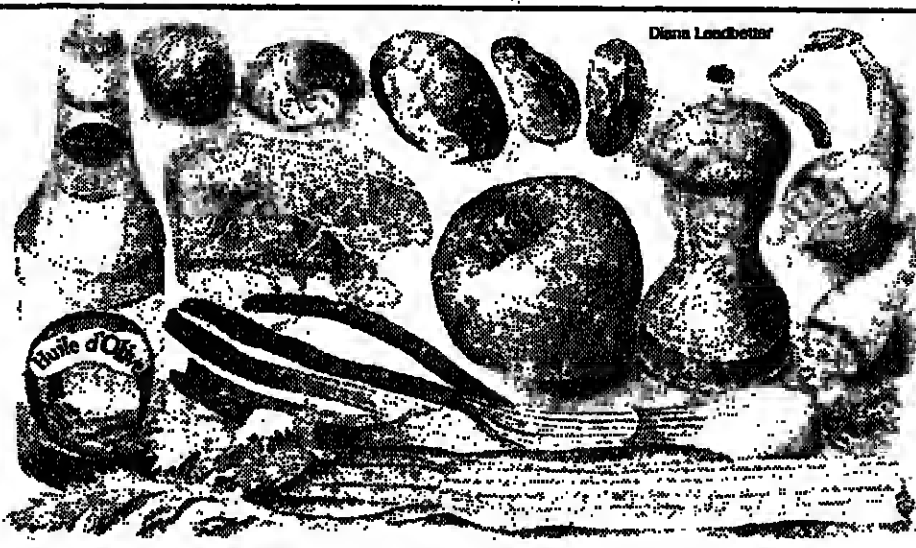
One Two Three is dearer; here we drank only Kirin Beer. The restaurant has dark wicker screens between the tables, greenery here and there and bi-spherical lampshades made from the kind of wire that keeps flies from larders. Six pieces, each the size of a domino, of a raw belly of a tuna cost £12; this must be some sort of record. A dish called "various fish" was comprised of scallops, mackerel and spinach perfumed with rice vinegar that was adjudged to lend it the flavour of old towels, but jolly nice old towels of course.

There's an excellent stew of noodles, gij no moto (monosodium glutamate), seaweed which must have been fresh cut from a groyne that morning, chicken gizzard, mushroom and fishcake. And the (leanish) belly pork simmered in saké is one of the most succulent meat dishes imaginable. £70 plus for two - and you'll note that the bill has a space for you to write your name and company. If you want to eat like this you must join Sanyo.

Jonathan Meades

Gombe 151 Kings Cross Road, WC1 (01-278 0619), Mon to Sat 6-10.30pm. One Two Three 27 Davies Street, W1 (01-409 0750), Mon to Fri 12-2.30pm and 6.30-11.30pm.

THE TIMES COOK



Stuffed with richness

To stuff or not to stuff? Is stuffing necessary? Do you like it? Why bother? Let's decide first whether it is to add flavour, moisture, bulk, variety or all four.

Stuffing is hardly ever essential, although it comes in handy when a small bird must stretch to feed a multitude. In the case of turkey, the main purpose of stuffing is to add flavour and perhaps variety. It should not be needed as a moistener unless the bird is horribly overcooked.

This year's turkey has a richly flavoured stuffing. The second recipe, a variation of a traditional potato stuffing for goose, could not be simpler. It also provides one of the accompanying vegetables which makes one less thing to think about on the day.

Roast goose with potato stuffing Serves six to eight 1 goose, about 4.5kg (10lb) For the stuffing 1.8kg (4lb) potatoes 6 rashers streaky bacon 30g (1oz) butter 3 bunches spring onions, finely chopped 3 sticks celery, finely chopped Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Take the giblets from the goose and use them to make stock for gravy, reserving the liver. (Serve the liver lightly sautéed as a warm salad first course.) Save any detachable lumps of goose fat to render down as dripping and cut off the wing tips for the stockpot. Peel, cook and mash the potatoes. Grill the bacon until it is crisp then cool and crumble it. Melt the butter, add the chopped spring onions, and cook them on a low heat for a minute or two.

Talking turkey with Shona Crawford Poole

Mix the potatoes, bacon, spring onions and chopped celery with a generous seasoning of salt and pepper and use this mixture to stuff the goose. Truss it with string or skewers and prick the skin lightly with a fork or skewer on the legs, back and lower breast to help the fat to run out. Do not puncture the skin over the main breast area because the fat underneath it will be needed to baste the meat.

Set the goose on a rack in a roasting tin and roast it in a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 15 minutes.

Turn the bird over on to its breast, reduce the temperature to moderate (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) and roast for 1½ hours; then turn it on to its back again and roast it for another 1½ hours - making a total of 3½ hours' cooking time. Pour off the fat in the roasting pan two or three times.

The goose is cooked when the juices run pale gold. Test with a skewer inserted into the leg close to the body. Rest the bird for at least 10 minutes before carving it.

Roast turkey with chestnut stuffing Serves 12 to 14 1 fresh turkey, about 5kg (11lb) For the stuffing 225g (8oz) pork, lean and fat, finely minced 225g (8oz) minced veal 1 turkey liver 110g (4oz) Parma ham 110g (4oz) shallots 110g (4oz) stoned prunes 1 medium dessert apple 450g (1lb) cooked chestnuts

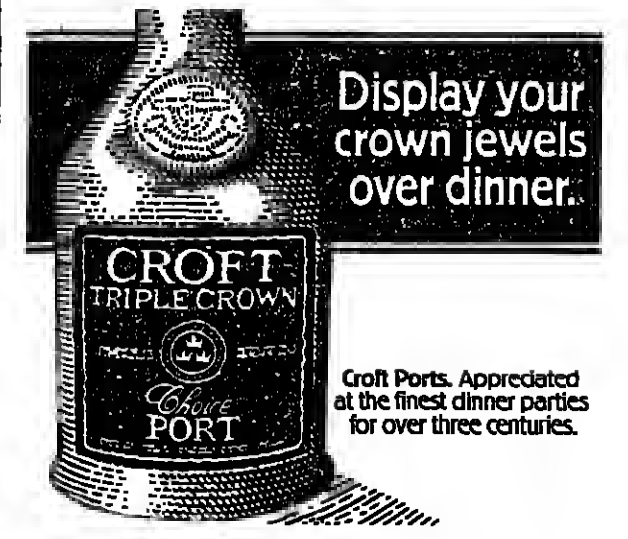
4 tablespoons olive oil 225g (8oz) stuffing breadcrumbs 55g (2oz) freshly grated Parmesan cheese 5 tablespoons dry sherry ½ nutmeg, grated Salt and freshly ground black pepper

To baste 110g (4oz) butter, melted 8 tablespoons dry white wine Put the minced pork and veal in a large bowl. Fry the liver for a moment or two in a tablespoon of oil - just long enough to firm it a little. Chop it finely and add it to the bowl together with the Parma ham, shallots, prunes and apple, all finely chopped. Break up the chestnuts and add them too, then mix all the ingredients lightly together.

Heat the remaining oil and fry the stuffing, in two or three batches, over a medium heat for about 10 minutes. Remove it from the heat and stir in the breadcrumbs, Parmesan, sherry and seasonings. Set aside to cool.

Stuff the turkey with this mixture. Truss it and remember to calculate the cooking time on stuffed weight. Set the turkey on a rack in a shallow roasting tin. Soak a double thickness of butter muslin in the wine. Wrap it out, soak it in the melted butter and drape it over the breast and thighs of the turkey.

Roast in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) for about four hours, basting it several times. The turkey is cooked when the skewer inserted into the thickest part of the leg close to the body. Remove and discard the cloth and rest the turkey in a warm place for at least 15 minutes before carving it.



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How many Santas are cuddly-wifters?

If the national average is anything to go by, probably about 10%.

But research shows that in ancient civilisations buck-listed, south-pawed, in other words left-handed people, may have had the upper hand.

Could it, after all, be wrong to be right and right to be left?

Read The Economist's 112-page Christmas double issue. Out now. £2.



CHRISTMAS TELEVISION AND RADIO

By Peter Waymark



FILMS ON TV

BLACK HARRY: Shirley MacLaine made her first screen appearance in *The Trouble With Harry* in 1956. Relentlessly teased by the director, Alfred Hitchcock, who insisted on talking to her in Cockney rhyming slang, she had a torrid baptism. The film, a joyous black comedy about a dead body that stubbornly refuses to stay buried, was mysteriously withdrawn for many years and has only recently resurfaced. Look out for John Forsythe, blue-rinsed hero of *Dynasty*, as an abstract painter. ITV, Christmas Eve, 10-11.50pm.



TELEVISION

RINKSIDE SEAT: Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, the ice dance wizards, get their skates on again for *Fire and Ice*. It is a fantasy drama about a prince and princess from opposite worlds who meet and fall in love but find that their passion threatens to destroy them. With choreography by Graeme Murphy, artistic director of the Sydney Dance Company, *Fire and Ice* combines ice dance with ballet, boasts more than 30 spectacular costumes and features music by the ubiquitous Carl Davis. ITV, Boxing Day, 7.30-8.30pm.



FILMS ON TV

ENGLISH LESSON: Julie Walters shot to international stardom as the working-class girl who joins the Open University in *Willy Russell's Educating Rita*. Michael Caine is the disillusioned English professor who becomes her tutor. Released three years ago and being shown on British television for the first time, the film was a huge box-office success and a landmark in the career of its veteran director, Lewis Gilbert, whose credits go back to *Reach For the Sky* in the 1950s. BBC1, Christmas Day, 10.40pm-12.30am.



TELEVISION

GREAT DAME: Peggy Ashcroft may be our greatest living actress but she has not hitherto been noted for her willingness to be interviewed on television. Now, in her 80th year, she makes amends. In conversation with the critic Michael Billington, she reflects on a brilliant career which started at Birmingham Rep in 1926. She recalls her several Juliets, getting racist letters while acting with Paul Robeson, and, away from the stage, playing cricket with Len Hutton. *Dame Peggy* is on Channel 4, Christmas Eve, 9-10.45pm.



RADIO

GOON FOREVER: The Goons - Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe - sent a shock wave through British comedy in the 1950s and the memory of their irreverent, anarchic style lingers fondly on. This year five editions of *The Goon Show* which were broadcast overseas but have never been heard in this country were discovered in the BBC Archives and are being unwrapped for Christmas. Meet Eccles, Bloodnok, Grytpype-Thynne and company on Radio 4, starting on Christmas Day, 12.27-12.55pm.



TELEVISION

RIGHT WALLY: George Cole as Wally, an old man who suffers from loss of memory, in *Day to Remember*, a play about a family gathering for Christmas which skilfully walks the tightrope between comedy and pathos. Ron Cook plays the son-in-law left to cope with Wally's efficiency, and Rosemary Leach and Barbara Flynn complete a strong quartet. The script, by the prolific Jack Rosenthal, shrewdly catches the interplay of character and the nuances of banal speech. Channel 4, tomorrow, 9.45-10.45pm.

TODAY

- ● ● **2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY** (1968): Stanley Kubrick's bold and intelligent excursion into science fiction, with brilliant special effects, which largely dispenses with conventional plotting to emphasise the power of images and ideas. A rich meal, both for the eye and the mind. BBC2, 11.50am-2.05pm.
- ● ● **THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES** (1946): William Wyler's powerfully crafted drama of American servicemen making the painful adjustment to civilian life. Six Oscars included one for the handsomely veteran, Harold Russell. Channel 4, 2-5.05pm.
- ● ● **HAROLD LLOYD'S WORLD OF COMEDY** (1962): Lloyd himself made the selection of golden moments from his silent and early sound films. An avalanche of brilliantly executed gags from a unique comic talent. BBC2, 2.05-3.40pm.
- ● ● **PICCADILLY INCIDENT** (1946): Anna Neagle returns from a desert island to find that husband Michael Wilding has re-married. The first of the "London" films, directed by real husband Herbert Wilcox. Launches a Neagle season. BBC2, 3.40-5.20pm.
- ● ● **OLIVER!** (1968): Handsome and lively screen version of Lionel Bart's stage musical, based on *Oliver Twist*, with fetching performances from Ron Moody, Harry Secombe and the young Mark Lester. Veteran Carol Reed directed and won himself an Oscar. BBC1, 5.55-8.15pm.
- ● ● **TRADING PLACES** (1983): Exuberant, sharp-edged John Landis comedy with poor black Eddie Murphy and rich smug Dan Aykroyd swapping roles to settle a bet between two old stockbrokers (Don Ameche and Ralph Bellamy). ITV, 10.15pm-12.25am. *British television premiere.*
- ● ● **THE WAGES OF FEAR** (1953): French existentialist stalwarts Yves Montand and Charles Vanel in Henri-Georges Clouzot's classic thriller, which wrings every last drop of suspense out of a hazardous journey through Central America with trucks of nitro-glycerine. BBC2, 10.45pm-12.20am.
- ● ● **TARZAN, THE APE MAN** (1981): Bo Derek as a scantily clad Jane in a good-to-look-at but dramatically empty foray into the African (actually Sri Lankan) jungle, directed by husband John. BBC1, 11.15pm-1.05am.

The great TV picture show

TUESDAY

- ● ● **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** (1925): Terrific performance by Lon Chaney as the deformed musician luring the diva to his lair in the Parisian sewers. Stylish and atmospheric, and still the best film version of Gaston Leroux's classic thriller. BBC2, 12.50-2.05pm.
- ● ● **THEY FLEW ALONE** (1941): Anna Neagle and Robert Newton as the pioneer aviators Amy Johnson and Jim Mollison whose public triumphs were undermined by a rocky marriage. Solid, flag-waving biography. BBC2, 3.50-5.30pm.
- ● ● **RAISE THE TITANIC** (1980): It would have been easier to have lowered the sea said one wag of this lifeless epic which effectively sunk the film career of Lord Lawford. ITV, 1.30-3.35pm.
- ● ● **THE JUNGLE BOOK** (1942): Colourful but dramatically staid Korda version of the Kipling stories, with Sabu as the boy Mowgli and model animals. BBC2, 4.05-5.50pm.
- ● ● **THE GREAT WALTZ** (1938): Hollywood goes to Old Vienna for a plush, sugary musical biography of the waltz king, Johann Strauss. Perversely, he is played by a French actor, Fernand Gravet, and another Frenchman, Julien Duvivier, directs. Channel 4, 2.30-4.25pm.
- ● ● **YELLOW CANARY** (1943): Efficient wartime spy thriller with unusual casting for Anna Neagle as, perish the thought, a woman suspected of being sympathetic to the Nazis. BBC2, 4-5.35pm.
- ● ● **IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD** (1939): Madcap comedy with James Stewart as a greenhorn private eye assigned to shadow a millionaire and falling in love with Claudette Colbert. Channel 4, 4.25-6pm.
- ● ● **THAT TOUCH OF MINK** (1962): Cary Grant as a suave bachelor in amorous pursuit of the original Doris Day. Formula plot but with Grant at his stylish best it cannot fail. BBC2, 6.25-8pm.
- ● ● **GUYS AND DOLLS** (1955): Heavy, studio-bound version of the Damon Runyon musical, with Marion Brande as an unlikely Sky Masterson. The dolls, especially Vivian Blaine, steal the show. Channel 4, 8.30-11.15pm.
- ● ● **FIREFOX** (1982): Clint Eastwood versus the worst Communist film ever made and since he directed as well as starred he has no excuse. Channel 4, 11am-1.40pm. *British television premiere.*
- ● ● **DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE** (1920): John Barrymore in flamboyant form as Robert Louis Stevenson's split personality, managing most of his transformations with facial contortions rather than trick effects. BBC2, 12.50-1.50pm.
- ● ● **ROB ROY - THE HIGHLAND ROGUE** (1953): Richard Todd as the Scottish adventurer in a tepid British production from the Walt Disney studio. ITV, 1.30-3pm (Scottish, Christmas Day, 12.30-2pm).
- ● ● **THE WIZARD OF OZ** (1939): Judy Garland and chums take to the Yellow Brick Road for an enduring piece of Hollywood magic with marvelous songs and a host of delightful characters - the Witch (Margaret Hamilton), the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger), the Cowardly Lion (Bart Lahr) and the Tin Man (Jack Haley). BBC1, 2.25-4.05pm.
- ● ● **THE STRONG MAN** (1926): The baby-faced silent comedian Harry Langdon in his best screen role as a First World War soldier in pursuit of a girl parodied. Shown in a newly restored print, with music by Carl Davis. Channel 4, 3.30-5pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE

- ● ● **CAMMINA CAMMINA** (1983): Ermanno Olmi's highly personal, often idiosyncratic, re-working of the story of the Three Wise Men, vividly shot in rural Italy and performed by a cast of non-professional actors. Channel 4, 11am-1.40pm. *British television premiere.*
- ● ● **NORTH BY NORTHWEST** (1959) gave Cary Grant one of his happiest roles as the cocky advertising man mistaken for a spy in Alfred Hitchcock's chase thriller. The scene in which Grant, alone on empty road, is menaced by a crop-duster, has rightly passed into movie legend. But there are other marvelous set pieces, from the murder in the United Nations to the climactic shoot-out on Mount Rushmore. Eva Marie Saint is the resident Hitchcock blonde, concealing passion under a cool exterior, and James Mason makes a suave villain. BBC1, 10pm-12.15am.

CHRISTMAS DAY

- ● ● **THE PURE HELL OF ST TRINIANS** (1960): Third in the series about Ronald Searle's awful schoolgirls and the joke is starting to pall. But there is compensation in George Cole's Flash Harry, a spivish forerunner of Arthur Daley. BBC1, 10-11.30am.
- ● ● **THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON** (1959): John Mills leading his shipwrecked family to a new life on a tropical island. Lively, well-made offering from Disney. ITV (except Scottish), 11.40am-2pm.
- ● ● **THE PIRATE** (1948): Director Vincente Minnelli may have created his Caribbean island in the studio but with stars like Judy Garland and Gene Kelly, songs by Cole Porter and lush colour, the staginess hardly matters. BBC2, 12.20-2pm.
- ● ● **HELLZAPOPPIN'** (1941): Manic, surreal farce featuring vaudevilleans Ole Olsen and Chic Johnson in a screen version of their famous stage hit. A non-stop volley of verbal and visual gags built around the attempts of two bungling comics to put on a show. Channel 4, 1.25-3pm.
- ● ● **DUMBO** (1941): Delightful Disney cartoon about the little circus elephant who uses his big ears to fly. ITV, 3.10-4.20pm. *British television premiere.*
- ● ● **ANNIE** (1981): Ponderous screen version of the stage musical with an unlikely director in John Huston. Saved

BOXING DAY

- ● ● **CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG** (1968): Dick van Dyke as a crazy inventor who gives an old racing car magical powers. Overlong and sometimes uneasy mixture of sentiment and farce, but kids lap it up. BBC1, 10.30am-12.45pm.
- ● ● **ESCAPE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN** (1974): Two orphan children with supernatural powers come under the wing of dastardly millionaire Rey Milland. Disney so-f-, ideal for a young audience. ITV, 10.30am-12.15pm.
- ● ● **THE GUNS OF NAVARONE** (1961): Gregory Peck and David Niven lead Allied commandos in a mission to destroy huge German guns on a Greek island. Effective Second World War blockbuster, stronger on action than talk. BBC1, 1.30-4pm.
- ● ● **20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** (1954): James Mason makes a splendid Captain Nemo in a spirited Disney version of the Jules Verne adventure about Victorian scientists held on a submarine. ITV, 2.10-4.30pm.
- ● ● **THE BAND WAGON** (1953): Vincente Minnelli's vibrant putting-on-a-show musical, joyously performed by Fred Astaire, Jack Buchanan (his best film part as an eccentric Broadway producer) and Cyd Charisse. BBC2, 4-5.50pm.
- ● ● **THE SPY WHO LOVED ME** (1977): Tired addition to the James Bond cycle, with 007 Roger Moore pitted against megamanticus Curd Jurgens and a seven foot villain, Jews (Richard Kiel). ITV, 5.15-7.30pm.
- ● ● **SOME LIKE IT HOT** (1959): Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis as musicians in drag on the run from gangsters, Marilyn Monroe in cute support. Billy Wilder's comic hit rags is short on discipline but rich in gags. BBC2, 10.05pm-midnight.
- ● ● **THE VERDICT** (1982): A typically solid and satisfying drama from director Sidney Lumet with strong performances from Paul Newman and James Mason as rival lawyers locked in a case about medical ethics. BBC1, 10.15pm-12.20am. *British television premiere.*
- ● ● **AIRPLANE! II: THE SEQUEL** (1982): Another frenzied lampoon of the disaster genre, but like most movie sequels it fails to match the original. ITV, 11.15pm-12.50am. *British television premiere.*
- ● ● **THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER** (1940): Bittersweet Erna Lubitsch, set in pre-war Budapest, and drawing deft performances from James Stewart and Margaret Sullivan as the pen pals who find that real-life contact is not so easy. BBC1, 12.20-2am.

Competitive edge and a touch of nostalgia

TELEVISION

Christmas television, at the end of the day, is all about ratings, and ratings depend not so much on the goods but how they are scheduled. It is so coincidental that BBC1 has EastEnders starting on Christmas Day at 6.35pm. As Britain's most-watched programme it stands an excellent chance of sabotaging ITV's Bond film which kicks off five minutes earlier, and with another edition of *EastEnders* on the same night (10-10.30pm), the Beeb should clean up.

RADIO

Christmas radio is heavily tinged with nostalgia. The Goons are back (see top of page) and so is Paul Temple and there are golden moments from *The Archers*. But it is not entirely a trip down memory lane. Radio 3 has a new play by Anthony Minghella, a young writer who has blossomed in 1986 with his first West End production, *Made in Bangkok*, and the television drama, *What If It's Raining?* His radio play, *Two Flanks and a Rescued* (Tues, 7.30-9.30pm) goes back to the Middle Ages and the city of York, which is staging the Mystery Plays. Financial stringency threatens the enterprise but with a royal visit in the offing, civic pride determines that the money shall be found. A cast which any West End manager would dream about includes another man of 1986, David Threlfall of *Paradise Postponed*. Less demanding fare is offered on Radio 4. Peter Sallis plays Agatha Christie's sleuth in

CONCERTS

Tomorrow, Cheltenham Town Hall (0242 521821): Mon, Hot Tub Club, Doncaster, (0302 527448); Tues, Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 359977).

DANCE

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: Peter Schaufuss's new production of *The Nutcracker* opens Fri. Performances continue twice daily until Jan 3, then nightly plus Sat matinees until Jan 17. Festival Hall (01-928 3191).

GALLERIES

SCOTTIE WILSON: Oddball, "primitive" paintings. Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Cambridge Road, Hastings (0424 435952).

BOOKINGS

GARDEN CONCERTS: Postal booking open for first of series with Royal Opera House orchestra under Bernard Haitink. Feb 12 and 14. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

TOMORROW

- ● ● **THREE COINS IN A FOUNTAIN** (1954): Dorothy McGuire, Jean Peters and Maggie McVane as three American girls finding romance in Rome. A slight story, lifted by lush photography and Frank Sinatra's title song. Channel 4, 2-3.55pm.
- ● ● **ROOSTER COGBURN** (1975): Leisurely asyue to *True Grit* with John Wayne repeating his Oscar-winning performance as the one-eyed gunman and joined by fellow veteran Katharine Hepburn. BBC1, 3-4.45pm.
- ● ● **ALL THAT JAZZ** (1979): Director/choreographer Bob Fosse brings his life and soul in a downbeat, frenetic and partly autobiographical musical about an artist heading for a crack-up. With Roy Scheider as the Fosse character and Jessica Lange. BBC2, 10.25pm-12.30am. *British television premiere.*
- ● ● **LITTLE CAESAR** (1930): Early gangster classic, with an explosive performance from Edward G. Robinson as a mobster based on Al Capone. Rough at the edges but moves with tremendous pace. Channel 4, 10.45pm-12.10am.

CONCERTS

NATIONAL CHILDREN: The National Children's Orchestra plays Panufnik's Heroic Overture, Saint-Saens's *Danse Macabre*, Chabrier's *Espana*, Maw's *Summer Dances*, Ruidor's Recorder Concerto. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191). Tomorrow, 7.15pm.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Another *Nutcracker*, this one produced by Peter Wright. Two performances today (with Marie Almeida and Antony Dowson featured this afternoon, Cynthia Harve and Jay Jolley tonight; further performances Dec 27 (plus matinee), 29, 31 and Jan 1, 2, 3 (plus matinee), 8, 9 and 9. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: *Lucia di Lammermoor* is the Royal Opera's Christmas offering on Tues and Boxing Day at 7.30pm. Handel's *Sansone* on Mon at 7pm. Covent Garden, London, WC2 (01-240 1066).

OPERAS

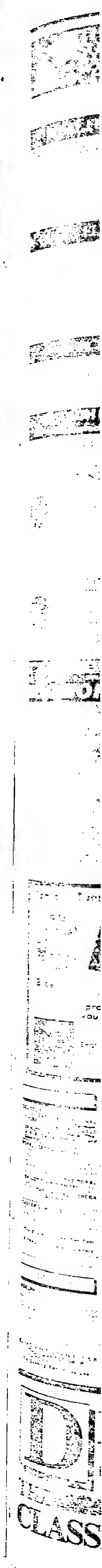
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Janáček's early, short opera, *Osud* (Fate), twinned most enterprisingly with a staged performance of the composer's haunting *Diary of One who Disappeared* on Mon at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London, WC2 (01-936 3161).

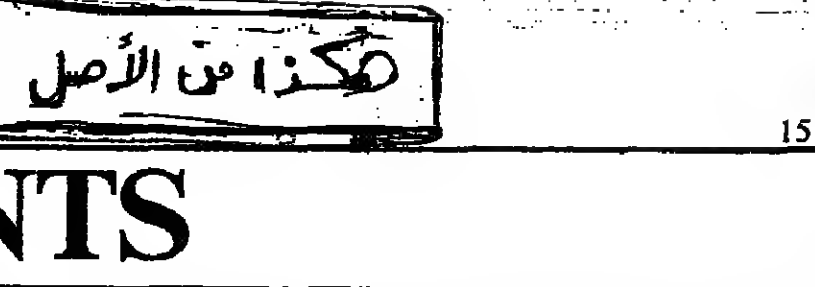
BOOKINGS

CONCERTS: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Galleries: David Lee; Rock: David Sinclair; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse

ROCK

DR FEELGOOD: Lee Brilleaux has been on the road most of the year with his gang of R&B peripherals and Christmas week is no exception.





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 SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER at 3 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.

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JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA
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St John's Smith Square

St John's Smith Square
 31 December & 1 January

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MOZART - VIVALDI
 CITY OF LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Conductor: ANDREW HAYES

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Monday 12th January at 7.45

MOZART - BRUCKNER

MOZART - BRUCKNER
 ROYAL OPERA HOUSE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Conductor: FRANCESCO D'AVALLIO

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Wigmore Hall
 27th December

Handel Messiah

Handel Messiah
 Handel Messiah

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 at the Barbican

MURRAY PERAHIA

Murray Perahia
 Murray Perahia

TCHAIKOVSKY

TCHAIKOVSKY
 Sleeping Beauty

at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL

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HANDEL - RACHMANINOV

HANDEL - RACHMANINOV
 ROSSINI - BEETHOVEN
 LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Conductor: ANDREW HAYES

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Monday 12th January at 7.45

MOZART - BRUCKNER

MOZART - BRUCKNER
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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
 Monday 12th January at 7.45

MOZART - BRUCKNER

MOZART - BRUCKNER
 ROYAL OPERA HOUSE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Conductor: FRANCESCO D'AVALLIO

St John's Smith Square

St John's Smith Square
 31 December & 1 January

WENDELSON

Wendelson
 Wendelson

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 at the Barbican

MURRAY PERAHIA

Murray Perahia
 Murray Perahia

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Frances Edmonds in Australia

Crying shame

Australian cricket captains are not the only sportsmen liable to break down and sob in defeat. John Kolius, the Robert Redford of the America's Cup and skipper of the New York Yacht Club's entry America II, was reduced to tears as New Zealand's "plastic fantastic" KZ7, skippered by 12-metre genius Chris Dickson, eliminated the New Yorkers from the race after their 24 successful defences of the cup in the 132 years preceding Australia II's 1983 victory. It was the sea breeze, the celebrated "Fremantle Doctor" which delivered the death blow to the Americans' \$20 million two-year fight to regain the cup. "We may sue the doctor for malpractice," said the defeated syndicate's spokesman wryly.

After America II's thrashing, two Sydney expatriates turned up at the New York Yacht Club and offered a replacement trophy. The club declined their offer — an empty Foster's beer can with wooden spoon and an Australian flag.

Super grass

The Adelaide Oval's perfect batting pitch is a credit to groundsman Les Burdett who has long criticized batsmen's use of rubber-soled shoes and maintains that the less popular spikes aerate the pitch instead of merely tearing off the top grass, and gives the spinners some rough to bowl on during the fourth and fifth days. Burdett is winning his argument. Spikes are now mandatory in Sheffield Shield matches at the Oval and he has started preaching the message for Test matches too.

Blinder

Former Australian skipper Richie Benaud has invented an odd way to improve the leg-spin of Peter Sleep and the off-spin of Greg Matthews. In an attempt to give the bowlers a mental picture of a perfect line and length, Benaud took the pair off to the nets in Adelaide and obliged them to bowl with their eyes closed. Wags in the England team say they thought that the Australian opening attack had already been doing just that in Perth.

Wakey-wakey

England cricket captain Mike Gatting, who overslept and arrived late at the Melbourne Cricket ground for the match against Victoria, will not be allowed to forget his peccadillo. In Adelaide, most of the team ignored the Hilton hotel's megadecibel fire-alarm siren which went off at 6.30 am assuming it was some prankster's wake-up call for their dozy skipper.

Who's who?

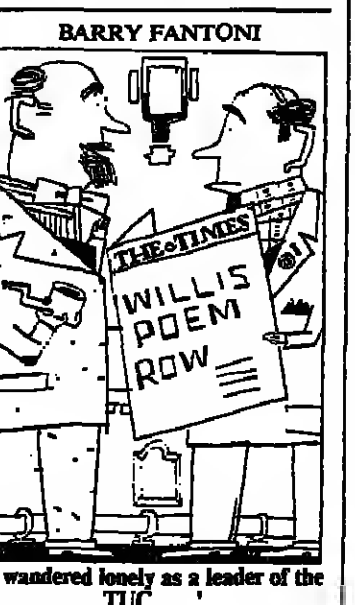
After the blood-letting at Somerset Cricket Club, the captain's recently published biography *It Sort of Clicks: Ian Botham talking to Peter Roebuck* is destined to become a collector's item. Roebuck has started another book, to be published by William Heinemann in the spring. A piece from the Australian poet Henry Lawson's anthology, *The Land Where Sport is Sacred*, has inspired the title, *Heroes and Clods*. Roebuck refuses to say who will be placed in which category.

Big talk

During Mike Gatting's early-morning absence from the Melbourne Cricket ground it fell to the oldest member of the team, Phil Edmonds, to give the pre-match pep talk. "No!" interjected someone at one point. "That will not do..." That is a three-syllable word and Gatting does not know any three-syllable words. "Oh, yes he does," countered Surrey's wicket-keeper Jack Richards, mindful of his skipper's increasingly generous girth. "Ham-bur-ger?"

Board stiff

After the Adelaide Test PBL Marketing, the company that markets the game for the Australian Cricket Board, may well have to rethink some of its advertising slogans. Television slots featuring a lion and a kangaroo in a dramatic "clashes for the Ashes" tussle are perhaps excessive in their claims for exciting play even by the usual FR standards. So dreary was the last day's play that one woman spectator even brought an iron and ironing board to the Oval to press her laundry.



How free are the Sakharovs?

Peter Reddaway speculates about the conditions that the Russian leaders may have imposed

The imminent return of Andrei Sakharov to Moscow from exile in Gorky does not come as a surprise to close watchers of Soviet affairs. On the other hand, what he and his wife will wish to do — and be allowed to do — after their return is very unclear, and will depend on many unforeseeable factors.

What is certain is that the Kremlin's move is not part of any discernible general policy of the Gorbachov leadership to ease the extremely harsh measures which have been taken against dissidents and would-be emigrants of all sorts over the past seven years — ever since, in fact, Sakharov was exiled for criticizing the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

A growing number of individuals have, like the Sakharovs, benefited from concessions designed to placate foreign opinion. But emigration is still barred to most applicants. And despite markedly greater openness in the media and cultural life, severe treatment is still being handed out to most dissidents.

The biggest questions are whether the authorities have imposed limits on the Sakharovs' future activity in Moscow, and if so, whether the strong-willed couple intend to observe them.

When campaigning for his wife to be allowed to travel to the United States for medical treatment, which she eventually did this year, Dr Sakharov did, under official pressure, give a very conditional undertaking to limit his public statements. More recently, however, he issued a forthright appeal on behalf of political prisoners, much in the style of his pre-exile days.

The authorities may have decided not to impose any conditions — at least at first — calculating that with the dissident groups in considerable disarray, Sakharov's return to Moscow will not lead to a new surge in their activity. If this were to happen, however, the authorities may have resolved in advance to take whatever steps against Sakharov future circumstances will permit.

Another question-mark hangs over whether the Sakharovs may soon want to move on from Moscow to join their family in Massachusetts. Would the Kremlin in that case agree?

In the past, Sakharov has been convinced that the authorities will never let him emigrate. He believes they do not want the West to know certain non-technical information about the Soviet space programme to which he was privy prior to his exclusion from it in 1968.

Partly for this reason, perhaps, he has never expressed an unequivocal desire to emigrate. He regards Russia as his home, and he feels a duty to act as a spokesman for the persecuted.

By contrast, the Kremlin has sometimes appeared divided on whether it might let him go. Two years ago official spokesmen said

he was free to leave, only to be contradicted by other spokesmen. To date, the Gorbachov regime has taken up the negative position.

The Sakharovs may of course emerge from the ordeal of their exile with changed intentions. The cumulative effect of their hunger-strikes and the barbarity of the doctors who assisted the KGB in tormenting them have damaged their health and aged them. This is clear from Mrs Sakharov's harrowing accounts in her recently published book about their exile, *Alone Together*.

In these circumstances — in their mid-sixties and with their family in the United States — it would not be surprising if any thoughts of emigration grew stronger.

A technical quasi-legal question is also of interest. While Mrs Sakharov has been legally pardoned for her alleged "slandering of the Soviet system", what exactly has happened regarding her husband? When he was exiled without trial, in violation of the law, spokesmen claimed that the basis for this was an unpublished decree of the Supreme Soviet. Has this body now issued another secret decree? If so, what are its terms?

The Sakharovs' return to Moscow fits into a clear pattern of

diplomatic moves by the Gorbachov administration. The physicist Yuri Orlov, the mathematician Anatoly Shecharansky, the computer-programmer Grivnina, and now the Kiev poet Irina Ratushinskaya have been released one by one, and allowed to leave the country. In these and other cases the main goal has been to create a better image abroad.

At the same time, however, an Orthodox Christian named Rusak has been sentenced to 12 years for his writings on the church, and the psychiatrist Koryagin is still, after three years of mental and physical torture, hovering on the verge of death in prison.

Worst of all, the worker and author Anatoly Marchenko has just become the latest in a lengthening line of dissidents to be pushed over this verge, by brutal prison guards and doctors, and into his grave. As Yuri Orlov summarizes yesterday, Marchenko's death may well account for the timing of the Sakharovs' release.

But their release would not have been feasible without the continuous pressure of scientists, government and humanitarian organizations over seven years. This has saved the Sakharovs from Marchenko's fate, and brought them, now, from the horrors of a Kafkescque existence in Gorky to a less abnormal, but highly unpredictable new phase of their lives in the Soviet capital.

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The many-layered illusions of our cultural decomposition

George Walden challenges the notion that the arts and technology are in conflict

Conservatives make a virtue of frankness about our economic condition. But there is room for a little more honesty about the cultural state of the nation too. Economic effortlessness has made us poorer than we need be, to imagine that we can coast into the future on inherited cultural superiority would risk mixing poverty with pretension.

The effects of economic decline are quickly and keenly felt, and the loss can be calculated in raw cash and human suffering. Retraining, enterprise and investment can prepare for a new industrial age.

Cultural decline is less easy to calibrate, or to counteract. We can measure the losses of a steel mill operating under capacity, but not of a child's brain, imagination or intelligence. The gap between our society's technological and cultural aspirations is large and growing. The reflections of this divergence are to be seen in a new political brutalism, a loss of roots and of simple humanity. None of this will be self-correcting, either by a return to prosperity, or by modern technology alone.

The Times recently crossed swords with the Prince of Wales on the venerable theme of the arts versus science in education. The prince feared technological domination; *The Times*, lack of enterprise. There were few reverberations, perhaps because the exchange fitted too easily into the established pattern of debate.

It is a cosy, predictable sort of debate, with a consoling, backwards-and-forwards rocking-chair movement: on the one hand, the need for more science and training; on the other, the vocational value of the arts. On the one side, the technological imperative; on the other, the humanizing humanities. On one side, philistine materialism; on the other, the rounded man.

The debate itself is becoming a convention, the answers as predictable as the questions. That is what happens if you leave out the little matter of quality. Do we really live in a country of cultural excellence, and economic mediocrity? As soon as the question is posed, the rocking-chair motion becomes less even, and more agitated.

"The British education system is too academic, and not sufficiently practical and vocational." The mind acquiesces numbly in a great contemporary truism, even though nearly everything about it is false. The idea that we should think less to earn more is as unsonant as it is uninviting. But the premise itself — that we are "too academic" — is fast forming into a many-layered illusion, a national conceit. The stark truth is that too much of our education is not just anti-business; it is anti-intellectual as well. Only one word comes to our lips as uncertainly as "entrepreneurship", and that is the word "culture" itself.

Nothing resembles a swelling as much as a hollow. Where are the fruits of this supposed "academicism"? In the fact that the government has to set up a public inquiry to discover whether we should be taught the structure of our own language? In the fact that some universities run remedial courses to enable their students to express themselves adequately in their own tongue, after 13 years full-time education? In the reading habits of a country, two-thirds of whose families never buy books, and where what is read by children is pitifully below their potential? In popular veneration for our Nobel scientists? Or on our television screens, where the average child glazes his mind for 23 hours a week — excluding videos?



Over-production of aesthetes and high-domed dreamers would be an entertaining excess, but alas, it is no part of our problem. We need more emphasis on intellectual achievement in the arts and humanities, not less: both for itself, and for vocational reasons too. Our education is not "academic" enough, and it is not practical enough either. There is no either/or between arts and sciences, no conflict between thinking and doing, least of all in the intellectually demanding new technologies. All too often, "too academic" can be a euphemism for "too much mental effort".

In Britain, any talk of culture has to be approached with crablike circumspection, and the word itself somehow carries disagreeable foreign flavours. Oswald Spengler decided that we didn't have one at all — only a soulless civilization. But whether he or we like it or not, we have one all right, and a rather distinguished one too. It was once defined by T.S. Eliot as including everything from Derby Day and the Cup Final to boiled cabbage cut up into sections. He was not being nationalistic, and still less "prouder than thou" — hardly his manner.

But he certainly wasn't saying that culture, however broad its scope, is exclusive of the fine arts, fine literature, a sense of history and intellectual excellence. Since boiled cabbage and Derby Day — though less perhaps football — seem to be flourishing, it seems reasonable to concentrate on these less material aspects.

As a country, we are out short of pietistic devotion to the humanities; only of the thing itself. At worst, our attitude to the arts comes close to H.L. Menckens's description of chastity: a reputation for it is a wonderful thing; chastity itself is sometimes useful. Like the rarer brands of Scotch,

English, has been quietly disintegrating too. Significantly, the report appeared in 1975 — the nadir of Britain's economic fortunes — and it is worth rereading today. Its angust equivocations mirror more accurately than any historical survey the passive accommodation to decline which was the hallmark of the era. Belief in literature as a civilizing experience for pupils of all abilities is described, with deft condescension, as a "spirited credo", and before long the report itself subsides into educational colloquialism: "total teaching situations" and the like.

Conservatives cherish the past and tradition. Yet our modern broad sometimes has a thin, metallic utilitarian ring, closely associated with economic realism and new defence technologies — vital, but not sufficient pillars of a civilized society. It is right to re-read Adam Smith's economics; but also Thomas Carlyle's denunciations of materialism and spiritual waste. If Conservatives want change within continuity, and to enrich the present with a knowledge of the past, we would do well to encourage a little more familiarity with it. A country losing touch with its own history is like an old man losing his glasses: a distressing sight, at once vulnerable, unsure, and easily disoriented.

Given the binary simplicities of the times, it is scarcely possible to raise such matters without being suspected of Luddism, or of evading economic necessity. But higher cultural aspirations do not conflict with prosperity: they underpin and transcend it. Without them, the protection of democracy and the elaboration of sane public policy will become increasingly difficult, as governments themselves lose the historical perspective against which domestic and international judgments must be made.

An intellectual culture is not a luxury, but a practical economic and political necessity. The *Collège de France* recently described it as "an instrument of free thought, which, like the martial arts in other fields, can help today's citizen protect himself against abuses of power to which he is subjected by advertising, propaganda, and political or religious fanaticism". The dull spirit of fanaticism is there in British politics alright. How well are our citizens protected?

The battle raging over the future of Britain's education is one of the most hopeful developments in this country for many years. There is an obscure but growing groundswell of dissatisfaction with things as they are: with the anti-achievement ethos, the institutionalized aspirations to the second rate, the inculcating of ordinariness. It is not just a matter of intellectual achievement — vital and underestimated as that is — but of a healthy reaction against the philosophy of low expectations, whether in football, cooking, English or maths.

People do not relish the prospect of a future in the third league. There is a spark of revolt against the logic of decline, the beginnings of a renewal of the spirit of educational idealism which the Tory Party must capture. A new educational culture, based on quality and effort, in the humanities as well as the sciences, is the only secure basis for the future of our country. If that is not what people want, then we must dim down our hopes for that future. If it is, then there is a lot to be done.

The author is Minister for Higher Education. The article is based on a recent speech to the Tory Reform Group.

Peter Brimelow Santa's zappy Christmas

New York
A cheery 20 ft-high Father Christmas has suddenly appeared by the side of the Connecticut road we whizz along every Friday night on our weekend retreat from Manhattan. My wife drives too fast for me to be sure of the details. However, it seems to be an inflatable advertisement for a newly-opened outdoor Christmas-tree emporium.

To British sensibilities, this may sound rather gross. But the fact is that the American rural landscape is so much larger and emptier than that of Britain, even in a relatively highly-populated state like Connecticut, that it simply swallows such details, in any case, I was delighted to see such a stupendous Santa. It confirmed my impression that Christmas has returned to America.

There are of course distinct national differences in the celebration of Christmas. Northern Europeans here go in for much more public display than southern Europeans. The Scots, for obscure Caledonian reasons, prefer New Year — or New Year's, as they say here. But when I first came to America from England as a student in the early 1970s I found the natives' enthusiasm for the festival quite astonishing.

Unlike the British, the Americans decorate the outside of their houses at Christmas. In those days they did it in a spectacular way. Driving through working-class areas you would see front gardens adorned with elaborate tableaux such as whole teams of life-size plastic reindeers pulling Santas and attendant gnomes on sledges, all lighting up at night. Full-grown trees would be festooned with coloured lights. Seasonal greetings would flash on and off. It was a community celebration, and competition, in a way that I remembered in Britain only at the last Coronation.

The energy crisis later cast a pall, literally, over all of this. It wasn't just the increased cost of power: energy conservation became almost a moral issue. But with the collapse of Opec the coloured bulbs are being lit again all over America. Fashion-conscious yuppies, however, prefer white lights and discreet conifer wreaths on the door.

So this evening, as I write these lines, I can see through my apartment window the Empire State Building illuminated in its Christmas colours of red and green. Right next-door to me, similar lighting has enabled the public-spirited Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to transform the tapering top of its headquarters tower, a copy of the campanile in Venice, into a Christmas tree 700 feet above the snarling Manhattan traffic.

There are other subtle differences between British and

American Christmas customs, not all of them as charming. Americans, for example, seem never to have heard of Boxing Day. They queue regularly work on December 26. Even this year with Christmas Day on a Thursday the New York Stock Exchange is determined to open the next day and disrupt Wall Street's chance of a long weekend.

Americans also don't seem to have heard of Twelfth Night. The holly wreaths and decorations put up with such enthusiasm in December are often still moldering sadly in March. On the other hand, what we think of as Christmas-card weather still has much of the country in its icy grasp in March. American winters are serious affairs and the victims have difficulty staying in a romantic mood.

It's always amusing to watch the peculiar look that comes over the faces of British visitors who the continuous carol-playing that goes on here at Christmas seems to be interrupted by a lugubrious rendition of *The Red Flag*. The American people have not belatedly validated Karl Marx's prediction and become the vanguard of World Revolution: what they are singing is the German carol *O Tannenbaum*, the source of the melody — sometimes sung in an English translation as *Oh Christmas Tree*. (With different lyrics, it's also the state anthem of Maryland.)

A similar anomaly is the growing practice of trimming holly wreaths with tartan ribbon, despite the Scots' previously-noted general abstention. Indeed, in regions heavily influenced by Scottish immigration, such as the Washington-area town of Alexandria or parts of North Carolina, Christmas has somehow come to be regarded as so typically Scottish that bagpipers are frequently employed in public places to regale the crowds. Actually, of course, the Christmas traditions of both America and Britain are mostly of German origin — transmitted, respectively, through the influence of the Prince Consort and massive immigration. But this is rarely noted.

A regular feature in America's Christmas is the continuous campaign by liberal groups to eliminate any religious symbols from public buildings. The American Constitution prohibits the "establishment" of any religion. But most Americans don't know what an established church is, and zealots have seized the opportunity to attack even non-denominational symbols with relentless fervour. Illogically, Christmas trees are not challenged, though hardly erected for ecological reasons. Emotions run high at this profoundly emotional season.

Merry Christmas — or, as they say here, "Happy Holiday".

Philip Howard Wit half as old as Time

Quotation is the sport of the sedentary classes. It is too late to run a mile in under four minutes, though I impressed myself, and alarmed the conductor, with a long sprint off the crown of the last bend to catch a No 27 bus the other day. I no longer seriously expect a telephone call from Australia inviting me to join the England touring party in order to add some biff to the middle-order batting, though in my opinion they are wet not to think of it.

But we can all quote; and we do, Oscar, we do. Next to being witty ourselves, the best thing is to quote another's wit. It is the English vice; an irritating form of showing off; and between friends and on the right occasion a way of sharing pleasure. Classical quotation is no longer the parole of literary men all over the world. You need to be jolly careful about letting a particle of Greek or Latin slip out these days, for fear of seeming elitist and an intellectual snob.

Richard Porson, the great Cambridge classical scholar, was as famous for his outstanding memory as for his prodigious capacity for booze. There are stories to confirm the observation that Porson would drink ink rather than not drink at all. One day he was travelling in a stagecoach when an Oxford undergraduate let slip a quotation in Greek, in order to impress the ladies present, and said it was from Sophocles. Porson was not impressed. He pulled a pocket edition of Sophocles from the recesses of his coat, and challenged the young man to find the passage. With the presence of mind and sang-froid for which Oxford is famous, the undergraduate said that he had made a mistake, and that the quotation was in fact from Euripides. Porson immediately produced a text of Euripides and repeated the challenge. In a desperate attempt to save face in front of the giggling girls, the young man declared that the quote must have come from Aeschylus. When the inevitable text of Aeschylus popped out of the folds of Porson's coat, the undergraduate shouted: "Coachman, let me out! There's a fellow here has the whole Bodleian Library in his pocket." The anecdote illustrates well the different qualities of the two universities: pederasty versus style.

To be occasionally quoted, if only on *What the Papers Say*, is the supreme fame for scribblers.

To make it into *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* is to have a monument that will last longer than bronze. I am interested in the one-quotations men: those whose literary memory rests on a single quotation. The classic example is Dean Burgon, who as an undergraduate wrote in his entry for the *Newdigate Prize*:

*Match me such marvel save in Eastern city,
A rose-red half as old as Time.*

He was actually quoting from Samuel Rogers:

By many a temple half as old as Time.

Plagiarism apart, his single line has lived, unlike anything else that Burgon wrote. He became Dean of Chichester; the rest of his life as a



writer must have been anticlimax, like that of an infant prodigy who is finished at the age of 14.

Cornelius Whurr wrote the amiable couplet:

*What lasting joys the man attend
Who has a polished female friend.*

Nothing beside remains of his writing. The Oxford reference books spell him Whurr, the University Library knows him as Cornelius Whurr. His is still a good solo quote.

Dr M.J. Routh said: "You will find it a very good practice always to verify your references, Sir"; and remembering this does not seem to be much to show after 63 years as president of a famous Oxford college. It only quotes to show.

*Hush little bright line,
Don't you cry,
You'll be a cliché
By and by.*



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CRACKS IN THE EMPIRE

The past 48 hours have seen developments of great and ostensibly conflicting significance in the Soviet Union. The dissident scientist, Andrei Sakharov, and his wife have been released at last from internal exile. The capital of the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan, Alma-Ata, has been the scene of nationalist riots by Kazakh students, which have been reported by the Soviet media. And the official newspaper, Pravda, has blamed Leonid Brezhnev by name for the maladies afflicting Soviet society today.

Together, these developments spell change - change which is at once hopeful and deeply disturbing. They signify that the Soviet media are becoming more open; they illustrate some of the domestic and international tensions besetting the Soviet Union; and they confirm that Mr Gorbachov is concerned with image and presentation in a way his predecessors were not.

Cynics may be tempted to see a grand manipulative scheme behind the spate of reports from Moscow. Might the announcement of Dr Sakharov's release not have been timed deliberately to distract Western attention from oews of the unrest in Kazakhstan? Might the criticism of Brezhnev have been designed to justify the replacement of Kazakhstao's Brezhnevite leader - the event which is believed to have sparked off this week's rioting in Alma-Ata?

Whether or not such connections exist, this week's developments call for a response from the West. Because of their importance, the West should look beyond the appearance to the substance before deciding what that response should be.

The release of Dr Sakharov and his wife, while to be welcomed without reservation, must be seen as a further attempt by the Gorbachov leadership to present a more civilized face to the West. The

castigation of Dr Sakharov, who had through his scientific career brought honour to his country, was an indictment of the whole Soviet system. The illegality of his exile exemplified its arbitrariness; his enforced separation from his wife its inhumanity.

The real import of Dr Sakharov's release waits on time. If he is allowed to resume his contacts with his former colleagues; if he and his wife are both, in time, permitted to travel abroad together - even, if that is their desire, to emigrate - then there will have been a real change of heart in the Kremlin.

However, if conditions - of silence or isolation, perhaps - have been placed on their return to Moscow, their exile in Gorky will have been replaced with an exile which is the more bitter for being more public. And if their experience is not replicated in the treatment of other, less prominent dissidents, whose release would not elicit so favourable a response from the West, then the Kremlin's change of heart will be spurious.

While the temptation for the West will be to respond to the release of Dr Sakharov with unalloyed rejoicing and talk of victory, its immediate response to the unrest in Kazakhstan is likely to be Schadenfreude. So, it will be said, the Soviet system finds nationalism just as tricky a force to deal with as the West. So the Russian big-brother has not after all been able to convince even second and third generations of Soviet-educated Kazakhs of Russian beneficence and Soviet nationhood.

There is truth in this assessment, but not all the truth. The young Kazakh rioters were said to be dissatisfied by the replacement of their long-serving communist leader, Dimmukhamed Kunayev, by a native Russian from outside the republic. In their protests, they issued an open challenge

with authority devolved to it by the DTL. It is illegal to do investment business without a licence which the SIB may take away.

The supervisors monitor the various self-regulating organizations and stipulate much of their rulebooks. Moreover, as recent events have shown, there is now a much stronger purely statutory element operated by the DTL. Only in isolated areas, most notably the City Takeover Panel, does regulation now look weak.

What does need to be looked at again is the source of the corruption that is oow emerging. The principal agent, on both sides of the Atlantic, has been the transformation of the individual takeover bid into a large-scale takeover industry, fuelled as much by the operations of the likes of Mr Boesky and the desire of merchant banks and securities houses to drum up business, as by the traditional ambitions of financiers and managers.

to the decision of the Soviet Communist Party leadership in Moscow, and so to the policies of Mr Gorbachov. Nationalistic challenges have been staged before in the Soviet Union - in the Baltic states and in the Caucasus - but these had nothing of the menace of disturbances in Central Asia. Here, the combination of a rapidly increasing population, national sentiment and the emotional appeal of Islam which binds its adherents to Mecca rather than to Moscow, is potentially more explosive than any other source of tension in the Soviet Union.

Already, Slavs have lost their overall majority in the Soviet population. Yet the people of Central Asia see the power in their republics passing to Russians even more widely than before - partly as a result of Mr Gorbachov's determination to combat corruption. They see their influence at the centre of power in Moscow similarly diminished. Earlier this year a project to divert north-flowing Siberian rivers southward to irrigate Central Asia was shelved. With the removal of Mr Kuoyev, their sole representative oo the central Politburo, they have lost their voice at the centre of power.

This first intimation of serious discontent in Central Asia presents Mr Gorbachov with a problem which equals the stagnating economy in its seriousness. It is a problem that cannot be solved by exhortation or by personnel changes. It demands the sort of radical change in attitude that may be foreshadowed in the release of Dr Sakharov.

Whether such change is inopportune or not, however, Schadenfreude is an inappropriate response from the West. Friends and foes of the Soviet Union alike have oow to ask themselves whether they can contemplate civil unrest in the Soviet Union with equanimity. And if they cannot, what their response should be.

CITY SCANDALS OF 1986

As soon as one prominent City dealer resigned over allegations of insider trading, it was widely realized in the City that a locked door had been opened and that much dirty linen would tumble out. The deal between the American Securities & Exchange Commission and the disgraced New York arbitrageur, Mr Ivan Boesky, has proved a great catalyst. And the appointment of inspectors by the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate its own officers is a further sign that the Government is determined to pursue this process with reformist zeal.

What is oow happening is not a result of the changes in the City, encapsulated in the Big Bang. It is part of the process of reforming the old system which had sunk into more tawdry ways than most outsiders imagined.

The Financial Services Act was passed to police the financial world with a new two-tier system of supervised self-regulation, scheduled to come fully into force next autumn. It was in part ordered to protect the public from abuses of relatively new and unregulated forms of investment. It was also rethought in the light of the City revolution in order to substitute tough and systematic rules to cope with conflicts of interest previously

prevented by restrictive practices or club conventions. The City realises the old practices would be fatal to its competition with other financial centres. And The Government understands that the decay permitted to spread under the old ways could discredit the new era of mass individual share ownership.

The basic trouble has been that the old informal club-like system of trust, under the aegis of the Stock Exchange and the Bank of England, has broken down under the same pressures as morality in everyday life. In particular, merchant banks and stockbrokers have sailed closer and closer to the wind in the interests of their clients in takeover bids.

The psychological Achilles heel of the new system is that it is called self-regulation. In practice, however, the new regulatory system is close to the statutory American system. The Securities & Exchange Commission, under the weight of its own bureaucracy, was long ago obliged to operate principally through self-regulating organizations such as the various stock exchanges. In Britain, the Securities & Investments Board, whose members are approved by the Department of Trade & Industry and the Bank of England, plays a similar role to the SEC, though it is a private organization

with authority devolved to it by the DTL. It is illegal to do investment business without a licence which the SIB may take away.

The supervisors monitor the various self-regulating organizations and stipulate much of their rulebooks. Moreover, as recent events have shown, there is now a much stronger purely statutory element operated by the DTL. Only in isolated areas, most notably the City Takeover Panel, does regulation now look weak.

What does need to be looked at again is the source of the corruption that is oow emerging. The principal agent, on both sides of the Atlantic, has been the transformation of the individual takeover bid into a large-scale takeover industry, fuelled as much by the operations of the likes of Mr Boesky and the desire of merchant banks and securities houses to drum up business, as by the traditional ambitions of financiers and managers.

To cleanse the financial world, it may be necessary to change the framework of takeover rules and the relations between companies and their shareholders in which this industry flourishes. That - rather than the improved regulatory system that is now exposing some of its excesses - should be the target of financial reformers.

of a romantic packing-warden? No doubt we shall soon begin to see notices at Heathrow displaying the time permitted for an embrace, and the officials with stop-watches and menacing expressions lurking at the counter; we are not sure that we wouldn't prefer the Thought Police to the Kiss Police. Besides, to make the thing fair, those going oo short flights should have a briefer embrace-time than those going far, has that been taken into account? There should be an extra allowance, too, for newly-weds, and a rigidly-enforced ten seconds maximum for gentlemen seeing off - ahem - other gentlemen's wives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reagan and the Republican cause

From Dr Bruce Collins Sir, Mr Patrick J. Buchanan, White House director of communications (feature, December 10), makes out a wholly erroneous case against the disloyal Republican party establishment.

He tells us that President Reagan "has done more for the Republican Party than any American since Theodore Roosevelt"; T.R., of course, ruined his party's chance of keeping the presidency in 1912 when he challenged the incumbent William H. Taft, first for the party's nomination and then for the presidency, thus letting the Democrats in.

Second, Buchanan asserts that Reagan brought the Republicans "back from Watergate to become the party of vision and opportunity" when it seemed to be written off. In fact, shrewd commentators in the mid-1970s predicted a major realignment, with gains for a pragmatic, yuppie (if you like) Republicanism following the passing or aging of the New Deal generation, its ethnic ties and its economic preoccupations. The "Watergate" mid-term election of 1974 merely postponed that process.

Gerald Ford won 48 per cent of the popular vote in 1976, not much dwarfed by Reagan's 51 per cent four years later. More general Republican success in 1980 resulted very little from a "coattails" effect, but rather from long-term planning, good finances, opportune promises, a degree of unity, and the Democrats' disarray.

Third, Buchanan deploras the Republican establishment's lack

Unfair to British sportswomen?

From Mrs Sylvia Disley Sir, in his article on the decline of Oxbridge sporting excellence David Miller (Spectrum, December 9) gives as ooe of the reasons the proportional rise in women students which, he says, "cut the available pool of sportsmen", thus assuming that sportswomen do not count.

Maybe in these establishments they do not, but they should be mindful of the fact that since the war British women have taken their share of Olympic medals, world records and so oo in such sports as track and field athletics, swimming and cycling, while in tennis British women have reached the final of the singles tournament at Wimbledon on six occasions and three have won it, during which time not one British man has succeeded in even reaching the final.

Last year the Cambridge women's ski team beat its Oxford counterparts at Val d'Isere, while the Cambridge men lost to Oxford. Consequently the defeated Cambridge men were allowed to join the prestigious Hawks Club, membership of which is not known to be disadvantageous to gaining employment in later life, while the victorious women skiers were not. This is because the Hawks Club is for men only.

Perhaps when Oxbridge can offer the same advantages to their sportswomen as to their sportsmen they may enjoy a renaissance of their former sporting glories. Yours faithfully, SYLVIA DISLEY, Hampton House, Upper Sunbury Road, Hampton, Middlesex, December 13.

South African arrest

From Mr David Astor Sir, Amidst all the gloom in South Africa, "the quality of the country's Black leaders shines through: their idealism, their genuine sense of ooo-racism, and their readiness not only to forget but to forgive, compel admiration. These are precious assets."

This quotation, from the Commonwealth Eminent Persons' report, applies to Mr Zweekhe Sisek arrested last week in Johannesburg for no given reason. I had visited him recently at his paper, New Nation, which he edited with the financial backing of the Catholic Church. He struck me as one of the finest young men I have met in any country. His views were level-headed, independent, generous-minded and ootably modest for the already famous son of two politically distinguished parents.

Such a well-balanced man is rare in any society. In South Africa he is indeed a precious asset, someone who could help to build ooe community out of the artificially segregated divisions of the republic of today. DAVID ASTOR, 9 Cavendish Avenue, NW8, December 15.

Keeping treasures

From Mr Lawrence Keen Sir, Dr John Wood and Miss Clare Conybeare (December 6) quite rightly drew attention to the urgent need for revising the law of treasure trove. One may take some measure of consolation in the fact that the owner of the Middleham jewel (your report, December 12) may share in the proceeds of its sale, unlike many metal-detector discoveries when oo agreements have been made between treasure-hunters and owners.

But this exceptional find highlights again the necessity of a complete review of the legislation concerning all portable antiquities. It is quite wrong that the fate of the Middleham jewel, undoubtedly of national importance, should now be determined by the good will of the private buyer, or if it is likely to go abroad, by the capacity of one of the national museums to raise a very substantial sum. Yours faithfully, LAURENCE KEEN (Chairman, Dorset Local History Group), 7 Church Street, Dorchester, Dorset, December 12.

Past laughter

From Rabbi Jonathan Romain Sir, "I cannot believe in a God who does not laugh", declared Philip Howard (December 10) and claims that the Bible lacks wit.

Yet Sarah blames her giggles on God (Genesis, xxi, 6), while the Israelites credit their laughter to him too (Isaiah, xlvii, 2). Clearly God does have a sense of humour - if for no other reason than he so often sets up man, catches him on the hop and deflates his pretensions - undoing Eve with nothing more exciting than an apple, letting Samuel rush ahead in his name and choose the wrong man to succeed Saul, and fooling Elijah through wind, earthquake and fire while hiding all along in the still small voice.

As for today, I am sure God still has occasion to laugh, smiling especially at the many claims to be the one and only way of worshipping him. Yours faithfully, JONATHAN ROMAIN, Maidenhead Synagogue, 9 Boya Hill Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire, December 11.

Payment of VAT

From Ms Karen Warwick Sir, I recently had to find nearly £12,000 to pay the barristers who had advised my solicitor over my petition to the European Human Rights Commission against the British Government and who had represented me at an oral hearing in Strasbourg. Of this, over £1,500 went straight to HM Customs and Excise in VAT.

When the rights guaranteed by the European Convention cannot be litigated against the United Kingdom authorities in the UK itself, is it not scandalous that an individual should be heavily taxed by those same authorities perhaps to the point of bankruptcy, as Mr Manches points out (December 11) - for going right outside the UK to argue that they, the authorities, have violated basic human rights? Yours faithfully, KAREN WARWICK, 109 Balls Pond Road, NI, December 11.

Aids as moral issue

From Mr R. T. Oerton Sir, People are, of course, fully entitled to believe that an a priori principle that sexual conduct should be confined to heterosexual conduct within marriage may be derived from scriptural or other sources. But it is as dishonest to claim that Aids validates that principle as it would have been to claim that the invention of the contraceptive pill invalidated it. Absolute moral principles, by definition, do not stand or fall according to the practical consequences of their breach.

The idea that Aids should be fought by preaching a moral principle of this kind is equally untenable: people would not be at risk at all unless they had already rejected it. My own view, for what it is worth, is that there is a link

between Aids and immorality, but of a much simpler kind. There is only one absolute moral principle: that which forbids the doing of harm to others. On this view sexual behaviour is immoral only to the extent that it causes harm, and this must depend on many variable factors. Aids is now one such factor, and its existence may render certain sexual behaviour immoral which otherwise would not be so. Yours faithfully, R. T. OERTON, 84 Burghley Road, NW5.

From Mrs P. E. Mitchell Sir, I read your wise words with interest today (December 16) in your leader, "Aids and morals". Where, oh where, is the Archbishop of Canterbury? Yours faithfully, PAMELA MITCHELL, 46 Eaton Terrace, SW1.

Measures of evil

From Mr P. M. W. Butler Sir, Rabbi Julia Neuberger (December 3) voices a tradition and faith according to which the incarnation of human beings towards "good" on the one hand and "evil" on the other is dependent on moral teaching or on various contrary factors, as the case may be.

others like him, have helped to create the tradition of which Rabbi Neuberger speaks, because and by means of an innate power that need not be explained in terms of any religion or culture? In using this word "power" I am thinking of what Juliette Huxley, in her autobiography, Leaves of the Tulip Tree, calls "the power of life", universal as it is. Our capacity for evil, begotten of our consciousness, works against this: it might almost be called "anti-life". But the life principle has ceased to apply to the human race by means of natural selection (working, as Darwin wrote at the end of The Origin of Species, "solely by and for the good of each being"), so

Student cricket

From the President of the British Polytechnics Sports Association Sir, I read with interest the article in The Times today (December 12) re the Benson and Hedges Oxbridge team. It seems a pity that the universities' sporting organisations and the Test and County Cricket Board have missed this opportunity of selecting from all students of the required standard.

Over 160,000 students in polytechnics and 30,000 in colleges have been denied the "privilege" of playing in the competition for no better reason than that they opted for higher education in the other sectors. The universities, by virtue of tradition, have a voice oo of the national governing bodies, which they have unfortunately declined to raise in support of their colleagues in this case. Maybe we will have to wait until the Combined Universities team is again at such a low ebb before the opportunity to participate arises again. Yours faithfully, JOHN GREEN, President, British Polytechnics Sports Association, Birmingham Polytechnic, Perry Barr, Birmingham, December 12.

Home and dry

From Mr P. B. Wood Sir, Now that we have a new President of the RIBA, may we ask him to remind all architects that it rains occasionally in this country? To be able to get from one's car into one's house in the dry is almost as rare as the fabulous roc's egg. And where one can, it is usually the result of alterations effected by the owner. Yours sincerely, P. B. WOOD, Almond Cottage, 7 Over Lane, Almondsbury, Bristol, Avon, December 9.

A prince's role

From Mr Royce Ryon Sir, I read with great interest John Grigg's article (December 11) on the Duke of Windsor and the Abdication.

I agree with him; it was not a constitutional crisis, since throughout the Duke, as King, acted in accordance with the Government's wishes and refused to fight them. But I believe Mr Grigg to be quite wrong on one point. There is nothing in law to stop Prince Edward, Princess Anne, Princess Margaret, Princess Michael or any other royal highness who is not a peer from standing for Parliament and being elected.

What prevented the Duke of Windsor from standing for Parliament was not that he was royal but the fact that he was a duke. The King made him a duke to prevent political activity and said so. Yours sincerely, ROYCE RYON, 64 Kingfisher Drive, Ham, Richmond, Surrey, December 12.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 20 1956 Most of the the essays which graced the Court Page in the 1950s and 1960s were the work of amateur writers. In content and style they are at least equalled that of professionals.

BANKING IN ARCADY

From a Correspondent I never feel so much a stranger as I do in the Essex town where I was born and which was my home for nearly 30 years. Though the tie is still strong, revisited it seems no longer the place to which I belong. Not that it looks much different from how it looked when I was a boy there 60 years ago. There is the same wide High Street with the market stalls in the middle, and I know exactly where the lanes and alleys turn out of it. Even some of the names over the shops are the same. I have an intense feeling of recognition, but the Epping with which I was once so familiar does not recognize me.

Because, of course, it is not there. It has been buried under the layers of the years. What I recognize is only the ghost town, the Epping which, in those late-Victorian times, was like a village in Arcady, isolated in a green ring of forest and farmlands, motor-cars unknown, bicycles at the penny-farthing stage, aeroplanes and radio unheard of. That is the Epping to which I belong, more real to me than the busy modern town that has replaced it.

And most vividly real at that corner of the High Street where the bank used to be. For it was there that, by the lucky chance of being sent fresh from school to be junior clerk, I gained my experience of banking in Arcady. It was before the time of the great amalgamation of the country banks when still run by private companies. Ours was the Chelmsford bank of Sparrow Tuffell and Co., and being merely an "Agency", not yet promoted to "Branch" status, there were only the three of us - manager, chief clerk, and me - to cope with the business. We kept idyllic hours, opening at 10 and closing at 3 except on market day (Friday) when we went on till 5. For most of the week our doors were closed to the town. In summer, the office was filled with the perfume of sweet briar from the hedge that grew below the window. Rooks made drowsy music from the tall trees across the green.

As a mere agency, all we had to do was to receive the credits and cash the cheques of the customers, enter the details in a Day Book (my job), and post a statement of the day's business, together with the cheques handed to the Chelmsford head office where the customers' accounts were kept and their pass-books made up. When our stocks of gold and silver needed replenishing the manager donned his tall hat and frock coat, took a large, heavily secured hbag bag, and went to London to bring back more from our agents. He would have been an easy prey to robbers on the way home, but nobody every molested him.

BROAD BROGUES

The office resounded with the broad brogue of rural Essex, mingled with many Scottish accents, for the Essex soil is much like that of the lowlands and attracts the Scottish farmers.

It made Saturday a busy morning with us when the results of this weekly boom in trade flowed into our credit accounts. Then I would handle the cheques of so many different colours and designs that the banks of those days printed, a source of never-ending delight to me. They were banks whose titles have long been forgotten, titles often romantic because of the rhythmic string of names, all printed in beautiful penmanship style with decorative loops and flourishes - Prescott Dindale Coxe Tagwell and Co.; Harriet Farquhar Chapman and Co.; Sir John Wm. Lubbock, Bart.; Forster and Co.; Barclay Bevan Tritton Ramsdon Bouvier and Co. - they read like lines from some mysterious poetry. The most elaborate was "Cocha Biddulph Cocha Biddulph and Cocks." It might have come out of Dickens...

Lick and promise

From Sir Francis Avery Jones Sir, Animals lick their wounds and they heal remarkably quickly; they sometimes do the same for a fellow animal. Kind Primrose, the cow, clearly thought her owner's balding pate needed a helping lick and her wish was fulfilled with his hair growing again (report, December 15).

Medical scientists have recently discovered that saliva contains a powerful skin healing chemical which is known as urogastrone/epidermal healing factor (URO/EHF). It has been chemically identified and synthesized, but its full medical capabilities have yet to be discovered. Primrose may have provided doctors with an invaluable clue. It is a most interesting substance; its presence was suspected over 50 years ago when a possible cure for duodenal ulcer was being investigated. It now seems that this indeed may be another use for it. It almost certainly explains how quickly dental wounds heal, a fact much appreciated by dentists and their patients.

Primrose has had her just reward, saved from the fate of her fellow Jerseys (not Friesians, surely!) living on at the farm as a family pet. Doubtless she will achieve a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the cow who licked her way to fame! Yours faithfully, F. AVERY JONES, Mill House, Nutbourne, Pulborough, West Sussex, December 16.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BIRTHS

BAIRDON-SMITH - On December 17th at the Royal General Hospital, New...

BIRTHS

MARRIS - On December 17th, peacefully, Rosemary, widow of Herbert...

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BARWEN - Yeanna, Fortinos humiliated all in memoriam forever...

DEATHS

DORWARD - On December 18th 1986, peacefully Reverend John Cochrane...

BIRTHDAYS

ANDREA - 27 on 21st. Congratulations and very warm wishes to you from your...

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

WESS - Victor (Cecil Louis) and Anita, 70th Anniversary...

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOPLAS - On Thursday December 18th, peacefully, Dan Jerome...

SERVICES

ANCESTRY CONTACT - the team with the best experience World wide...

WANTED

DISAPPOINTED BALLET FAN - Desperately seeks tickets for Friends of Covent Garden Gala...

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN...

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COMPANY NOTICES

WARREN COSMETICS UK LIMITED - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN...

Archaeology Mint link to Black Death

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent. Excavations on the site of the former Royal Mint have shown that before the area was used for coining money it had been an abbey, a plague cemetery and a navy depot.

Hooligan or Stereotype?

Football violence, old ladies being mugged, cars written off, homes ransacked - is this your view of crimes committed by teenagers today?

The RAF Benevolent Fund repays the debt we owe

The Royal Air Force reached a peak strength of 1,206,000 in 1944 and more than 1 1/2 million men and women served during the war years.

Church news

Appointments - The Rev J Archer, non-stipendiary minister, diocese of Derby...

Church of Scotland

Inductees - The Rev G S Cowie to Balmie with Fraser...

Church in Wales

The Rev J Knowles, Vicar of Llanfrynnon, to be Vicar of Llanfrynnon and Llanfrynnon...

Sunday before Christmas

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL - 8.30 AM. Evensong. 10.30 AM. Christmas Eve. 12.30 PM. Christmas Eve.

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER

ST MARYLEBONE - 8.15 AM. Evensong. 10.30 AM. Christmas Eve. 12.30 PM. Christmas Eve.

ST MARYLEBONE

ST MARYLEBONE - 8.15 AM. Evensong. 10.30 AM. Christmas Eve. 12.30 PM. Christmas Eve.

PSORIASIS

'Lushy, though we are loathsome to love, Keen sighted, though we hate to look upon ourselves, The name of the disease, spiritually speaking, is Humiliation.'

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Happy Christmas Carol... Holly and Ivy say take a bough... bob bob bobbing from Robin... Hot Christmas pudding from an old flame... and other tidings of great joy.

SPECIAL SEASONS GREETINGS OFFER IN THE TIMES ON CHRISTMAS EVE 1986

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THE TIMES

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Freed hostages snatched back from Malawi

By Nicholas Beeson

Mozambique yesterday seized 57 foreign hostages, recently released by the country's National Resistance Movement, and flew them against their will from Malawi to Maputo in a daring operation overseen by Mr Alberto Chipande, the Mozambican Defence Minister.

In an unprecedented move that has infuriated the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Portuguese Government, the former captives, who were released by the South African-backed MNR (Renamo) guerrilla group on Wednesday as a gesture of goodwill for Christmas, were forced by Malawi police to Blantyre airport.

The 43 Portuguese, 10 Pakistanis, two Cape Verdeans and two Mauritians were denied access to their consuls and forced to board a Mozambican military aircraft, which then flew to Maputo.

Some of the captives had spent 16 months as prisoners in the Mozambican bush, and had earlier declared they did not wish to go to Maputo.

Well-informed sources told The Times that Mr Chipande was on board the Soviet-made jet and oversaw the entire operation.

The action has jeopardized a further release by the MNR of eight Westerners - including Mr Ian Robertson, a British engineer, a German family of three, three Portuguese Jesuit priests, and one other Portuguese national.

"The mood of our people inside Mozambique is very bad indeed," said a Renamo spokesman in Lisbon, who claimed the former hostages had been seized by Mozambicans so that the Army could question them on the whereabouts of MNR military positions.

He believed an imminent release of the Western hostages was "out of the question under the circumstances".

One explanation for the Malawi police action was that it coincided with the signing of a joint security agreement between Malawi and Mozambique to help end rebel activ-

ity along their common border.

Renamo with South African backing has waged an increasingly successful campaign against the Marxist Government in Maputo by destroying vital communication links and controlling large parts of the countryside.

Yesterday's bold operation by Mozambique follows pressure by black-ruled front-line states against Malawi's President, Dr Hastings Banda, the only leader in the region to maintain diplomatic relations with Pretoria.

Malawi's complicity in the operation suggests that the land-locked country's leadership is straining under pressure from other black states and falling in line with anti-South African policy.

Following the death of Mozambican President Machel in an air crash in October, Pretoria claimed that it had uncovered a secret plot by the late President and Zimbabwe Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, to overthrow Dr Banda and replace him with a leader more sympathetic to the front-line cause.

Although Harare and Maputo denied the accusation, Western diplomatic sources in Malawi said the Government was "deeply concerned".

LISBON: Portugal's Foreign Ministry has presented an energetic protest to the Malawi Government for snatching back the 43 Portuguese hostages (Martha de la Cal writes).

The protest was made at the highest level - through the Portuguese diplomat who, along with the ICRC, was in Malawi to carry out the repatriation of the hostages.

This first delivery is worth £15m and 150 US dealers appointed from 1,200 applicants will sell throughout the country.

The Sterling is being produced at the company's Cowley plant at Oxford. Over 2,000 cars will have left Britain for the USA by the end of this year.

(Photograph: Harry Kerr)

£15m of Sterling bound for America



Austin Rover yesterday began shipping the first batch of 900 executive Rover 800 cars to the United States where they will be known as the Sterling and where dealers have promised to sell a minimum of 28,000 models during 1987.

Mr Hasani, who is 56, is an architect and planner. "I belong to no party; I speak my mind and I am not afraid."

But yesterday he was wondering how long a "free man" could survive in Brent's political climate.

"I have just been to the school to congratulate Miss McGoldrick on her release from the turbulent situation that has surrounded her. But now I think that turbulence is about to be transferred to me."

An official of Brent council said that he did not know how, when or by whom the investigation into Mr Hasani would be conducted. However, Mrs Helene Powell, the Conservative spokesman on education, said: "They should let the matter rest."

Asian school governor fears Brent ghetto

Continued from page 1 think it's the people who try to suppress these things who are the guilty ones."

Mr Hasani disclosed that four white children had been withdrawn from Sudbury school to the past three days and at least two more would be leaving in January. "It's tragic and it's all because of the council's policies that this area is becoming a ghetto. White people feel under pressure so there is a rush to leave. It is not healthy."

Turning to his wife for reassurance, Mr Hasani added: "I have been here for 23 years. I love this country. There is such a mix of races and cultures in such a small, confined island. It is a blessing and a virtue."

Inquiry in new year on defence buying

Continued from page 1 other large scale procurement contracts within the Ministry of Defence to see what lessons can be learned for the future.

During the nine year development of the Nimrod, a decision to cancel, and save millions of pounds, could have been made during any of the five reviews, which were carried out. Despite the doubts, senior officials of the Ministry of Defence and GEC jointly voted to carry on.

Sources within Whitehall said yesterday that at each of the reviews the GEC and Ministry officials had given "strong consideration about whether to continue" but each time the programme was allowed to say alive.

Stalker is to retire early from the force

Continued from page 1 First the police authority refused to bear the financial burden and then the Association of Chief Police Officers expressed their unwillingness to make any contribution.

It was only after Mr Stalker faced the alternative of selling his Cheshire home that his solicitor, Mr Roger Pennone, waived the excess owed in legal fees after supporters raised about £4,000.

Mr Stalker's resignation was greeted with dismay by Mr Tony McCarell, chairman of the Greater Manchester Police Authority policy committee. Mr Steve Murphy, police authority chairman, said: "I'm very sad to learn of his plans to retire because after living under a black cloud of suspicion for some months he was able to clear his name and I have looked forward to a long and mutually respectful relationship with someone I consider a fine policeman."

Greater Manchester Police Authority late yesterday accepted Mr Stalker's request to resign without discussion.

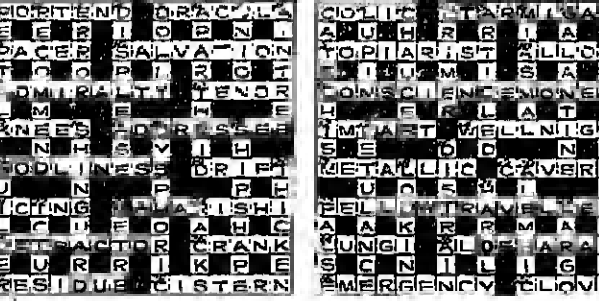
They agreed he would be allowed to leave in March next year from his £33,000 a year post on full retirement pension.

Mr Ken Strath, a left-wing member of the authority, said that Mr Stalker had been driven from office and that a "oust Stalker campaign" had been mounted by disgruntled members of Greater Manchester Police.

As he left the police authority meeting, Mr Anderton denied that any rift existed between him and his deputy and said that he was saddened by Mr Stalker's decision to resign. "However there are many fine officers available to fill our jobs and I am sure we will find a suitable replacement," he said.

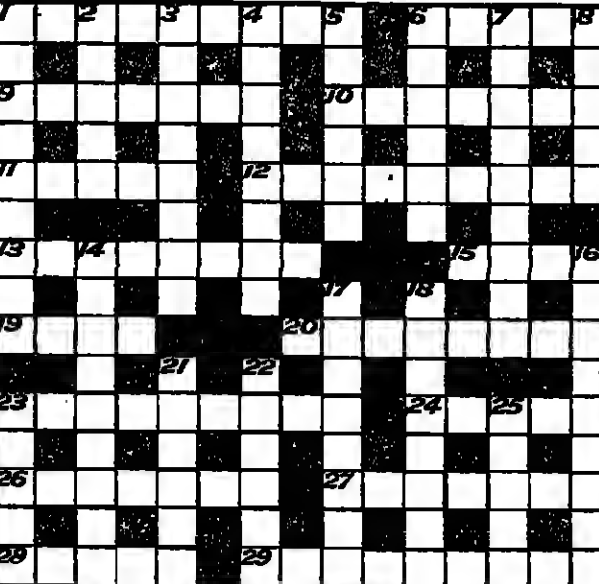
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,234

Solution to Puzzle No 17,228 Solution to Puzzle No 17,233



A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Wednesday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: R. Cathey, Bradley Lane, Eccleston, Chorley; Lancs; H. Greenville, Forest Drive West, London E11; Mrs M F Horwill, Chiltern Rd, Hichin, Herts; R. Lyle, Glynderi, Sennybridge, Brecon, Powys; K Reed, c/o Moyfair Hotel, Esplanade, Scarborough, N Yorks.



- ACROSS: 1 Equal financial reward when novice enters golf competition (5,4). 6 Girl on the piano - capital in Mediterranean island (5). 9 Most kindred are in the home (7). 10 Number 1 and several more find offensive (7). 11 Appropriate ceremonial form in speech (5). 12 Italian wine - not an unusual surprise (3,2,4). 13 Fat and wet (8). 15 Sounds so disgusted (4). 19 One still is first to make a snow man (4). 20 17th century girl straddles a horse (8). 23 Horror of man beset by weird spectre (3,6). 24 Fish - one caught inside grounds (5). 26 "In general" (1 quote) "That divides exactly" (7). 27 Palm-oil left out of bilberry pie (7). 28 Twisted, without head or arms (5).
- DOWN: 1 Dogbody may find a new position about 11 (3,6). 2 In a nasal tone they announce "A meal - eat up" (5). 3 They don't get drunk, although let loose among plenty (8). 4 In general, cards are much less (3,5). 5 One who is drawn from New England? (6). 6 In a factory one is easily modified (6). 7 Hurry up and give ring to destructive female in love (4,5). 8 A small section, but prolific (5). 14 Huntsmen are very fit weird spectre (3,6). 16 Place card has Christopher and two more names (5,4). 17 Dad's skin is fairly good (8). 18 Doing repairs - it's work at last (8). 21 A cycle is available (6). 22 Kind of maggot (6). 23 Mark two (5). 25 Kid influenced by speech (5).

Today's events

- New exhibitions: York Art Society Annual Exhibition, York City Art Gallery, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends Jan 11).
- Music: Sampson Singers Christmas Concert, St Mary's Church, Bampton, 7.30. Vivaldi: Four Seasons: Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, 8. Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in candlelight: Church of St James the Greater, Leicester, 6.30.
- Family Concert of Carols and Christmas Music, Cambridge Philharmonic Society, The Corn Exchange, Wheeler St, Cambridge, 7.30.
- Bolton Choral Union's Family Carol Concerts: Victoria Hall, Bolton, 7.30.
- The Chelmsford Singers, Christmas Oratorio: Chelmsford Cathedral, 7.30.
- English String Orchestra, Worcester Cathedral Choir, Malvern Priory, Worcester, 7.30.
- Carol Concert: Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society, Wells, 7.00.
- Bristol Choral Society: Colston Hall, Bristol, 7.30.
- Bristol Bach Choir, St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, 7.30.
- Christmas Concert: The Snowman, The Sands Centre, Cardiff, 7.30.
- Carols for Christmas, Northampton Bach Choir, St Matthew's Church, Northampton, 7.30.
- Carols by Candlelight, The Brigsteil, 72 Clyde St, Glasgow, 8.
- On Christmas Night by Nigel Ford, St John's College Chapel, York, 3 and 7.

Tomorrow's events

- Royal engagement: Princess Alexandra attends a gala tribute presented by the English National Opera to mark the retirement of Lord Goodman, CH, as Chairman of the Board at the London Coliseum, 7.15.
- Music: Family Carols Concert: Bournemouth, Sinfonietta and Symphony Chorus, Wessex Hall, Arts Centre, Poole, Dorset, 7.45.
- Christmas Concert: The Eastbourne Sinfonia; Floral Hall, Winter Garden, Eastbourne, Sussex, 3.
- Christmas Concert: Tiverton Amateur Operatic Society, Knightsbridge Court, Tiverton, (2,3,4).
- Master Concerts Series: London Brass, Music from Renaissance Italy; Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, Berks, 7.30.
- Carols and Poetry for the Nativity: St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Pl, Edinburgh, 6.30.
- Carols for All: City of Birmingham Choir, Heart of England Brass Ensemble, Kingsbury Handbell Ringers; Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.30.

Roads

- London and South-east: A40(M): Diversions at Westway, Paddington, with westbound closed to traffic today and tomorrow. West End: Congestion caused by Christmas shopping, M20 Kent: Contraflow between junctions 7 and 8 near Maidstone. Wales and the west: M5: Lane closures between junctions 28 and 30 (Cullompton/Exeter). A38: Delays and lane closures at the top of Haldon Hill between Exeter and Plymouth. A48: Delays, lane restrictions and contraflow between Llandaff and Cardiff.
- The Midlands: M5: One lane open northbound between junctions 6 and 5 (Worcester/Droitwich). The M5 will be closed between junctions 5 and 7 (Droitwich/Worcester) from 6 pm tomorrow to 6 am Monday. A1: Contraflow N Newark at Cromwell and Carlton-on-Trent. A5: Temporary lights E of Telford at Weston under Lizard.
- The North: M1: Repair work between junctions 31 and 33 (Worksop/Rotherham). A6: Diversions at junction of Chorley Rd and Moorside Rd, Swinton. A19: Single line traffic at Barby and Riccal bypass, N Yorkshire.
- Scotland: M8 Glasgow: East-bound lane closed between junctions 1 and 1.5 (Kelvinville/Townhead). A82: Delays and lane restrictions S of Drumochrocht. Ioversness-shire, A94 Aqauq: Bypass construction N of Forfar.

Anniversaries

- TODAY: Births: John Wilson Croker, politician and writer, Galway, 1805. Deaths: John Steinbeck, New York, 1968.
- TOMORROW: Births: Jean Racine, dramatist, La Ferre - Milon, France, 1639; Sir Joseph Whitworth, St. mechanical engineer, Stockport, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, Prim Moister 1868, 1874-80, London, 1804.
- Deaths: Giovanni Beccardini, Certaldo, 1375; James Parkinson, physician, London, 1924; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist and short story writer, Hollywood, 1940; George Patton, American general, Heidelberg, 1945; Gladys Ripley, contralto, Chichester, 1955.

Airport delays

Air travellers can help reduce queues and delays at airports during the holiday period by carrying only one item of hand baggage.

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: The Editor, The Times, PO Box 7, Virginia Street, London, E1 9XX.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Table with exchange rates for various currencies like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, Yugoslavia, and Dinar.

WEATHER

Weather forecast for today, tomorrow, and yesterday. Includes maps of the UK and Ireland showing wind directions and cloud cover. Also includes high tide and lighting-up time information.

AROUND BRITAIN

Table showing weather conditions (Sun, Rain, Wind, Max, Min) for various locations across Britain like Scarborough, London, Manchester, etc.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions for various international locations like Moscow, New York, London, etc.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Table with exchange rates for various currencies like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, Yugoslavia, and Dinar.

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Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Japanese', 'Insurance', and 'Stock Markets'.

Stalker is to retire early from the force

Continued from page 1 From the police authority...

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET FT 30 Share 1272.1 (+1.5) FT-SE 100 1632.2 (+1.6)

Japanese licences for firms

Three British companies, Morgan Grenfell, Midland Bank and James Capel, have been awarded branch licences to operate as securities businesses in Japan.

Siebe agrees Ranco deal

Siebe has agreed to acquire Ranco for \$40 (£27.97) per share in cash, valuing Ranco at about \$150 million.

Below target

A £3.55 million provision against property developments to Britain and the US depressed pretax profits from Guinness Peat, the financial services group, for the year to end-September.

Heath acts

C E Heath, the insurance broking group hit by top management resignations, moved to restore confidence yesterday by announcing five new main-board directors.

No referrals

British & Commonwealth Shipping's proposed acquisitions of Steel Brothers Holdings and of Exco International are not being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Profit rises

Stainless Metacraft, the fabricator of stainless aluminium and exotic metals in the medical, nuclear and aerospace industries, increased pretax profits for the year to end-August from £0.6 million to just over £1 million.

No sale

Associated British Ports will not buy Sealink's ports at Heysham, Newhaven and Parkstone Quay, Harwich, after preliminary talks failed to produce an agreement on financial terms.

Traded Opts 22 Stock Market 23 Money Markets 22 Treasury 23 Foreign Exch 22 Unit Trusts 24 Wall Street 22 Commodities 24 Co News 23 USM Prices 24 Comment 23 Share Prices 25

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS New York Dow Jones 1918.45 (+5.63) Tokyo Nikkei Dow 18930.03 (+206.31)

INTEREST RATES London: Bank Base: 11% 3-month interbank 11%-11.5%

CURRENCIES London: \$1.4325 New York: \$1.4327

NORTH SEA OIL Brent (Jan) pm \$16.65/bbl (\$15.85) * Denotes latest trading price

Guinness's 'gesture of confidence' Boesky £70m not short term

Mr Ivan Boesky's arbitrage partnership in which the Guinness group held a major stake was not a vehicle suitable for the short-term placing of funds, according to other participants in the fund.



Britoil's £35m HQ opened

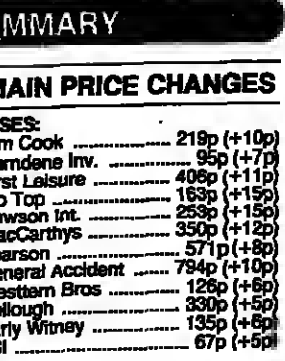
Britoil's £35 million headquarters in Glasgow was opened yesterday by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland.

£600m foreigners' tap

The Bank of England announced yesterday that it is issuing £600 million of 2 1/2 per cent index-linked stock, with a maturity date of 2024.

EEC takes Japanese tax issue to Gatt

No end to whisky war



Koji Watanabe: no specific offer on liquor tariffs The Japanese market has gone down from 10 per cent to 6 per cent.

£50m Big Bang boost for BZW

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the securities arm of Barclays Bank, is to receive a capital injection of £50 million to fund international expansion and to respond to the substantial increase in business since Big Bang in October.

Fimbra suspends dealer

Fimbra, the watchdog body for licensed share dealers, has suspended the second member company within the last week after complaints over its share dealing activities.

New chief for the IMF

Leading a struggle for unity

From Bailey Morris Washington M Michel Camdessus, the new managing director of the International Monetary Fund, faces a formidable task in unifying the powerful agency after the bitter battle to the run-up to his election.

From next year it isn't just your clients to whom you'll have to prove your financial professionalism

The Financial Services Act will open up tremendous opportunities to firms providing advice on financial planning.

COLLEGE OF FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR LOCATIONS AND DATES Glasgow January 14 Aberdeen January 15 Birmingham January 20 Leeds January 21 Southampton January 28 Brighton January 29 Cardiff February 4 Bristol February 5 Belfast February 17 London February 18



Dr Otaiba of the UAE arriving for the final talks

Opec may leave Iraq out of oil agreement

Oil prices firmed yesterday as Opec ministers, meeting in Geneva, appeared to be near agreement on production cutbacks which would reduce output by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels a day.

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COLLEGE OF FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR LOCATIONS AND DATES Glasgow January 14 Aberdeen January 15 Birmingham January 20 Leeds January 21 Southampton January 28 Brighton January 29 Cardiff February 4 Bristol February 5 Belfast February 17 London February 18

WALL STREET

'Triple witching hour' dampens early trading

New York (Reuters) - Shares were subdued as investors awaited the triple witching hour - the quarterly simultaneous expiry of futures, options and stock index options.

Table with columns for Dec 17, Dec 18, Dec 19, Dec 20, Dec 21, Dec 22. Lists various stocks and their prices.

Refunding scheme proposed by SIB

Investors who lose money when the investment company into which they put their money collapses, could receive up to £48,000 in compensation from the Securities and Investments Board, under proposals published yesterday.

Widening trade deficit pulls down UK growth

By David Smith Economics Correspondent Britain's widening balance of payments deficit pulled down growth in the third quarter, official figures show.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Table showing G.D.P. Output, Income, Expenditure, Average Estimate for 1985 and 1986.

Slump in energy hits BHP

Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP), the Australian industrial, energy and minerals group, continued to face low prices and difficult market conditions for many of its products in the six months to November 30 when net profits fell by 30 per cent to Aus\$397 million (£183.4 million) from Aus\$574.4 million.

BHP's oil and gas interests were particularly badly hit. Energy earnings slumped to Aus\$36.1 million from Aus\$332.8 million, with the Utah International division in the United States recording a loss of Aus\$42.1 million. Steel profits were also lower.

US standstill agreement

Lloyd's names on PCW syndicates have secured a standstill agreement on American litigation. The 20 defendants to a potential action, including Lloyd's, agreed not to invoke the statute of limitations on any future lawsuit.

The figures underpin the dangers for the economy if too large a proportion of demand is met by imports. In the third quarter, consumer spending was strong, rising by 1.6 per cent compared with the second quarter, to 4.9 per cent up on its level in the third quarter of last year.

But despite this sharp rise, and smaller increases in investment and government spending, the expenditure measure of GDP fell by 0.1 per cent in the third quarter. This was because imports rose at a far stronger rate than exports. In the third quarter, imports increased by 3.7 per cent in volume terms, while export volume was up by only 1.2 per cent.

months were 9.2 per cent for imports and 4.8 per cent for exports. Imports are deducted from expenditure to calculate gross domestic product, while exports are added.

The fall in the expenditure measure of GDP is disturbing when set against the strength of consumer spending in the economy.

Third-quarter spending on durable goods showed a volume increase of 11 per cent compared with a year earlier. This split between 8 per cent in spending on cars, 3 per cent on furniture and floor coverings and a 19 per cent increase in the volume of spending on other durable goods, including electrical products.

German economy 'needs more tax cuts'

Munich (Reuters) - Herr Karl Heinrich Oppenlander, director of the Ifo economic research institute, said the current West German economic upswing was not self-sustaining. Early tax cuts were needed to give it further support, he added.

The Ifo forecast is more pessimistic than a prediction published two months ago by the five leading institutes which saw 3 per cent expansion both this year and next. Joint predictions from the institutes, which include Ifo, give the average of the forecasts from the individual research organizations.

The agreement made before the deadline on Wednesday, has averted temporarily the prospect of a multi-million dollar lawsuit over the PCW names' losses.

The names are now covered by standstill agreements in Britain and America.

Table with columns for Dec 17, Dec 18, Dec 19, Dec 20, Dec 21, Dec 22. Lists various stocks and their prices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues of various companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

COMPANY NEWS

RUSH & TOMPKINS GROUP: Interim dividend 2.75p (2.3). Figures in £000 for six months to September 30 (six months to June 30). Turnover 73,965 (£5,097), pretax profit 1,486 (£1,234), after tax profit 1,266 (£1,144), earnings per share 9.9p (9.7). The company has exchanged a conditional contract with Priest Marjans for the sale of the greater part of Rush and Tompkins' investment properties portfolio for £32.05 million. In addition, the company has agreed in principle to the sale of its office development in Aldersgate Street, London, to a leading insurance company for £12.4 million cash.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues of various companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table with columns for First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Declaration, For Settlement. Lists various options.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns for Market rates, December 19, 1 month, 3 months. Lists various foreign exchange rates.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table with columns for Market rates, December 19, 1 month, 3 months. Lists various sterling spot and forward rates.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues of various companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns for Three Month Sterling, Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists various financial futures.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table with columns for Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA, Venezuela, West Germany, Yugoslavia, Zaire. Lists various other sterling rates.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table with columns for Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA, Venezuela, West Germany, Yugoslavia, Zaire. Lists various dollar spot rates.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table with columns for Series, Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec, Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct. Lists various London traded options.

Advertisement for National Savings 'EASIER TO EARN OUR HIGHER RATE'. Includes text about higher rates, tax-free interest, and a National Savings logo.

MONEY MARKET AND GOLD

Table with columns for Base Rates, Discount Market Loans, Overnight High/Low, Week forward, 10%, 2 months, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 30 months, 36 months, 42 months, 48 months, 54 months, 60 months, 66 months, 72 months, 78 months, 84 months, 90 months, 96 months, 102 months, 108 months, 114 months, 120 months, 126 months, 132 months, 138 months, 144 months, 150 months, 156 months, 162 months, 168 months, 174 months, 180 months, 186 months, 192 months, 198 months, 204 months, 210 months, 216 months, 222 months, 228 months, 234 months, 240 months, 246 months, 252 months, 258 months, 264 months, 270 months, 276 months, 282 months, 288 months, 294 months, 300 months. Lists various money market and gold rates.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS

Table with columns for Dollar, 7 days, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 30 months, 36 months, 42 months, 48 months, 54 months, 60 months, 66 months, 72 months, 78 months, 84 months, 90 months, 96 months, 102 months, 108 months, 114 months, 120 months, 126 months, 132 months, 138 months, 144 months, 150 months, 156 months, 162 months, 168 months, 174 months, 180 months, 186 months, 192 months, 198 months, 204 months, 210 months, 216 months, 222 months, 228 months, 234 months, 240 months, 246 months, 252 months, 258 months, 264 months, 270 months, 276 months, 282 months, 288 months, 294 months, 300 months. Lists various Euro money deposits.

BULLION

Table with columns for Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium. Lists various bullion prices.

TREASURY BILLS

Table with columns for 13 weeks, 26 weeks, 52 weeks. Lists various Treasury bills.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS

Table with columns for Dollar, 7 days, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 30 months, 36 months, 42 months, 48 months, 54 months, 60 months, 66 months, 72 months, 78 months, 84 months, 90 months, 96 months, 102 months, 108 months, 114 months, 120 months, 126 months, 132 months, 138 months, 144 months, 150 months, 156 months, 162 months, 168 months, 174 months, 180 months, 186 months, 192 months, 198 months, 204 months, 210 months, 216 months, 222 months, 228 months, 234 months, 240 months, 246 months, 252 months, 258 months, 264 months, 270 months, 276 months, 282 months, 288 months, 294 months, 300 months. Lists various Euro money deposits.

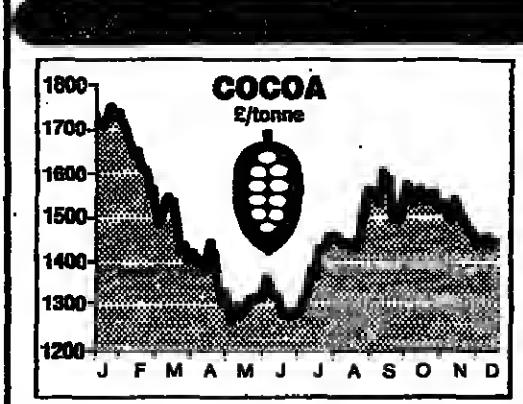
Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring the word 'Mana' and other text.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for Bid, Offer, and % change. Includes sub-sections for Weekly, Bid Offer, and % change.

UNLISTED SECURITIES table with columns for High, Low, Company, Bid, Offer, and % change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS table with columns for High, Low, Company, Bid, Offer, and % change.



Cocoa price analysis text: 'Cocoa has enjoyed a modest technical rally recently but the threat of renewed producer selling lies overhead and confrontation of the 1986/87 Ivory Coast crop at 500/520 tonnes (the third highest on record) has been bearishly received. Comment by CNI.

COMMODITIES table listing prices for various goods like Soyabean, Lead, Zinc, Silver, and Wheat.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS table listing various financial trust products and their performance.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE table listing prices for metals like Copper, Lead, and Zinc.

LONDON POTATO FUTURES table listing potato futures prices.

كندا من الأصل

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with 3 columns: No., Company, Group. Lists various companies like Low (W&M), Swire Pacific 'A', Guinness, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Sunday Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, %.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: No., Term, Rate, Price, Change, %.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Term, Rate, Price, Change, %.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Term, Rate, Price, Change, %.

UNDATED table with columns: No., Term, Rate, Price, Change, %.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: No., Term, Rate, Price, Change, %.

BREWERIES table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

FOODS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

HOTELS AND CATERERS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

INDUSTRIALS A-D table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

INDUSTRIALS E-K table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

INDUSTRIALS L-R table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

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Portfolio Gold

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000. WEEKLY DIVIDEND £24,000. Claims required for +35 points. Claims required for +204 points. Claimants should ring 0254-53272.

OVERSEAS TRADERS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

LEISURE table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

PROPERTY table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

MINING table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

SHOES AND LEATHER table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

TEXTILES table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

OIL table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

TOBACCO table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

OIL table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

TOBACCO table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

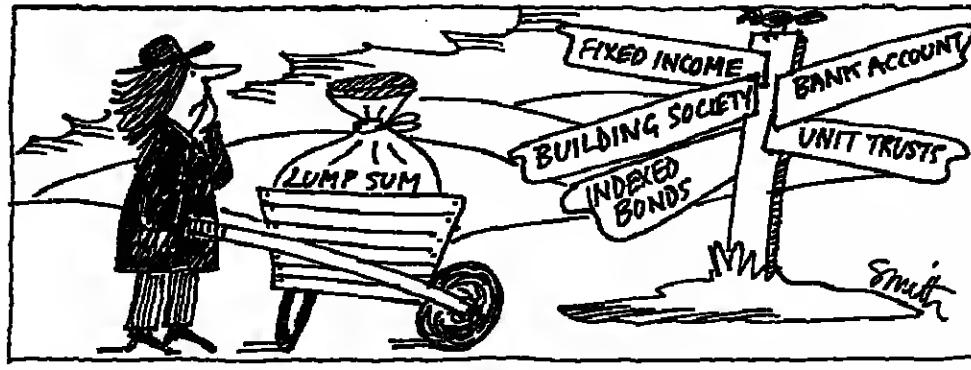
© Ex dividend. Ex at 8. Forecast dividend. Interim payment passed. Price at suspension. Dividend and yield exclude a capital payment. Pre-merger figures. Forecast earnings. Ex other. Ex rights. Ex scrip or share split. 1 Tax-free. No significant data.

Edited by Peter Gartland

FAMILY MONEY/1

Keep investments that keep you

If you have been building up a nest-egg for retirement or have received a legacy that you wish to turn into steady spending power, the options on offer are almost limitless. LIZ WALKINGTON shows you the way through the maze



"Have capital, need income" is not an uncommon situation. The classic way of converting a lump sum into a flow of income is through an annuity. This provides an income for life in exchange for a single payment.

However, this is also the most drastic as the capital is given up forever. Other investments will provide an income while still leaving your cash untouched, for future use or posterity.

When you make a choice, there are several questions to be considered. Do you want a fixed income, or are you prepared for it to fluctuate as interest rates change? How frequently do you need payments? Do you want ready access to your capital, and should it be secure, or will you risk some loss in exchange for growth potential? Finally, what is your tax position?

Suppose, to start with, you want your money to be secure in value and fairly easily accessible. An obvious possibility is a building society account. Although these may be popularly associated with accumulating savings, several societies now offer accounts with a monthly income facility.

If you want immediate access to your money as well, the

choice is somewhat limited. Among the larger societies, the Alliance & Leicester, Cheltenham & Gloucester and Nationwide offer monthly payments on their instant access accounts, though the minimum investment is higher than usual.

The facility is more commonly available on notice accounts. These are also more rewarding, in terms of the interest offered, particularly for larger deposits. As you cannot withdraw your money

Interest that can be transferred regularly

at once without penalty, it is worth shopping around at the outset. Smaller societies often have the best offers.

A bank account is another possibility, although most of those paying higher rates of interest are primarily designed for accumulation. Either the interest is added infrequently, or withdrawals are restricted. However, there are some, such as Aitken Hume's Monthly Income account, which give the option of having the interest regularly transferred to an ordinary bank account.

Both banks and building societies must pay interest net of composite rate tax, which cannot be reclaimed. If you are liable to tax, National Savings products are some of the few remaining investments which offer gross payments.

Monthly income first became available in 1982, with the introduction of the National Savings Income Bond. This now has a minimum of £2,000, with an upper limit of £20,000. The interest rate is variable, but six weeks' notice is given of any change.

An alternative, recently introduced, is the Indexed Bond, which also gives monthly returns. In this case, the interest rate is fixed year by year and is guaranteed to rise in line with the retail price index for 10 years. However, it currently offers less than the standard Income Bond, and with inflation at a low level, indexation is not a big attraction. The minimum investment is also higher, at £5,000.

If it is a fixed income you are after, for budgeting convenience, two other options are guaranteed income bonds, offered by life assurance com-

panies, and local authority bonds. Both are available for periods of one to 10 years, with the level of interest fixed throughout. In each case, it is usually paid net of basic rate tax, but this can be reclaimed on local authority bonds and on some types of guaranteed bond.

One drawback to these investments is that interest is paid infrequently - every six months for the local authority bonds, and often only annually on guaranteed bonds.

Answer could be an income unit trust

although a few do offer monthly payments. Additionally, once you have bought either type of bond, you are effectively locked in for the full term, so it is as well to check out the various offers available before making a choice.

A feature of all the investments mentioned so far is that the capital value remains static. This means that where the interest rate is fixed, your income will also be the same year to year, and likely to be worth less, in real terms, as

time goes by. To keep pace with inflation, the interest rate would have to be rising steadily, which only the Indexed Bond will guarantee.

If you are looking for some growth potential, in both capital and income, the answer could be an income unit trust. Although the rate of return may look low when compared with other investments, growth in the capital value will lead to a rise in the amount you actually receive.

Distributions on unit trusts are usually made half-yearly, but three companies - Framlington, Schroder and Touche Renmant - have trusts which pay a monthly dividend. There are also several that offer monthly income portfolios. The basic version is a "package" of trusts which pay dividends in different months, but this has the drawback that both the date and the size of the distribution can vary month to month, depending on which fund is paying out.

A more sophisticated arrangement combines the unit trust portfolio with a bank or building society account. This collects the distributions from the trusts, and a set amount is transferred to your own bank account on the same day every month.

There is a slight disadvantage to non-taxpayers, in that the interest on the bank or building society account is paid for net of tax. In addition, this portion of your investment will have no growth potential. On the other hand, it does offer an element of capital security, while the value of unit trusts can go down as well as up.



Fun and good food worth more than its weight in gold: festive times at the Savoy in 1889

Gourmet's golden rule

Luxury service at one of the world's most famous hotels - the Savoy in the heart of London - is at best a once-in-a-lifetime treat for most of us.

It is such a golden experience that it makes a lot of sense to compare the price of a traditional Christmas meal at the Savoy with the price of the Savoy's luxury service has changed in recent years.

The price of gold per ounce on December 17, 1980, was \$580. By December 17, 1986, the price had gone right down to \$392.

However, by converting dollar-based gold prices into sterling and taking into account the much strengthened US dollar during that six-year period, you get a greatly changed picture.

On this basis the sterling price of an ounce of gold on December 17, 1980, was £250. Six years on you get a sterling price of £274.

Now for the Christmas meal prices. In 1980 a four-course Dejeuner de Noel in the Savoy Grill was priced at £18.50. A five-course Diner de Noel, also in the Grill, would have set you back £21.

This year's Christmas Day luncheon in the Grill will cost £60 including service and VAT. For the same price you can have your Christmas Day luncheon, including a Savoy Christmas Cocktail, in the Savoy's River Room and listen to Ricky Valente at the piano.

So what is the real comparison for similar menus? In 1980 a dozen people could have enjoyed

Christmas lunch in the Grill at £21 a head. This year you would need to add a fistful of £1 coins to the current market value of an ounce of gold so that five people could have Christmas lunch in the Grill or the River Room.

Now, how about that most British of all institutions - the Savoy Afternoon Tea? In 1980, at £2.75 a head the value of one ounce of gold would have bought afternoon tea for almost 100 people. This Christmas at £7.50 a head, afternoon tea for only 36 would be possible with the value of an ounce of gold.

The price of luxury service is clearly on the increase. But then there are times when the price is less important than the experience.

Arda Lacey

There's still a passion for platinum

It has been all fun and games in the platinum world this year. The shiny white metal has outpaced gold for most of the time, rising up from \$340 an ounce to \$670 in September, then dropping back to around \$485 at present.

The main reason for platinum's spectacular rise was a fear that South Africa, which totally dominates production in the Western world, might cut off supplies in retaliation against sanctions imposed by its customers.

The logic behind this argument was that platinum has many more industrial uses than gold. It is used in the electronics and chemicals trades, and most importantly in car exhaust pollution control devices. At the same time, it is a much less important source of revenue than gold for the South African government.

In the end, supplies stayed intact and prices retreated, but that has done little to quell enthusiasm among its followers. In a report out this week,

Shearson Lehman Brothers are predicting an average price of \$550 in 1987 compared with \$465 this year. There is likely to be a surplus of supply over demand next year, but Shearson's analysts say it will be small enough to be absorbed easily by investors' demand.

The best place to go if you want to take a bet on platinum - and Shearson warns prices could remain volatile - is the Noble coin made by Ayrton Metals, which qualifies as legal tender in the Isle of Man.

Ayrton sells the 1oz coin at 6 per cent above the current offer price for platinum metal and guarantees to repurchase it at a 3 per cent premium to the bid price. Bullion dealers were quoting platinum yesterday at \$384-\$486, which means you could buy a Noble for \$384.25 and sell it for \$355.25. Ayrton offer discounts for larger orders and also has a 0.1oz coin for more cautious investors.

Richard Lander

Thanks for the £20, Mr Lawson

The Charities Aid Foundation has given a warm welcome to the relaxation announced this week by Nigel Lawson on the maximum amount that can be donated to charity under the payroll giving scheme.

The Chancellor has raised the limit on donations qualifying for tax relief from £100 a year to £120, principally because of the practical difficulty of dividing £100 into 12 monthly instalments.

The new limit means that from April 6, when the scheme comes into effect, anyone in a payroll giving scheme can give up to £10 a month to charity and get tax relief on the full donation at the top

rate of tax paid. So, for example, the actual cost of an annual donation of £120 for a 30 per cent taxpayer would be £60. Mr Lawson also said the Government would itself participate as an employer, widening the scheme to be open to members of the armed forces and all 660,000 civil servants.

The scheme will work in this way. Where an employer is prepared to set up a scheme, employees will be able to donate a fixed amount every week or month to their chosen charity or charities. This amount will be deducted from pay at source and tax relief given automatically through the pay packet.

Employers will pass the donations to clearing houses to distribute the money to the chosen charities - these could be, for example, in the fields of famine relief, arts or medical research.

The scheme will be entirely voluntary. No employer will be obliged to operate a scheme and no employee will be obliged to join. It will not affect charitable donations made through a deed of covenant. The two systems will operate quite separately and individuals will be able to make gifts and get tax relief under each system.

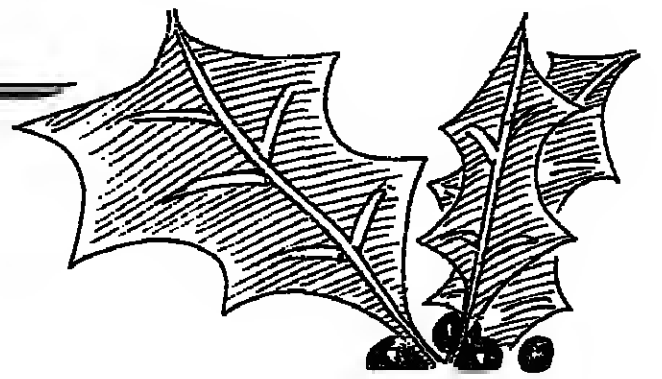
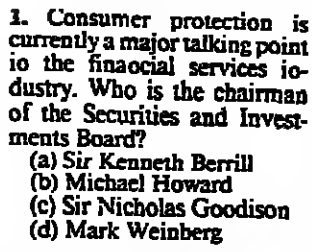
Peter Gartland

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table with multiple columns listing various investment funds, their bid/offer prices, and weekly changes. Includes sections for CRUISER ASSURANCE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE, and various other insurance-linked investment funds.

FAMILY MONEY/2

Champagne Christmas quiz



- Consumer protection is currently a major talking point in the financial services industry. Who is the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board?
 - Sir Kenneth Berrill
 - Michael Howard
 - Sir Nicholas Goodison
 - Mark Weinberg
- Registered plan managers will be free to offer Personal Equity Plans (PEPs) from January 1. What is the maximum annual amount that an individual can invest in a PEP?
 - £2,400
 - £4,800
 - £6,300
 - No limit
- The firerunner of the Business Expansion Scheme was known by a different name. What was it?
 - Investment Income Surcharge
 - Business Start-up Scheme
 - Industrial Building Allowance
 - Life Assurance Premium Relief
- British Gas shares were initially offered to the public at a price of 135p, partly paid. But when the Pathfinder Prospectus was published a maximum price had been quoted. What was it?
 - 50p
 - 125p
 - 130p
 - 150p
- In 1986 the Department for National Savings celebrated a milestone in its history. In which year was National Savings founded?
 - 1861
 - 1886
 - 1914
 - 1969
- Who is the chairman of the world-famous insurance market, Lloyd's of London?
 - Sir Jeremy Morse
 - Peter Cameron-Webb
 - Peter Miller
 - Sir Peter Green
- At 29 per cent, the standard rate of income tax is now below the 30 per cent rate of capital gains for the first time. But when was capital gains tax introduced?
 - 1939
 - 1965
 - 1974
 - 1982

This week you have your second and final chance to take part in the Family Money CHAMPAGNE CHRISTMAS quiz, an opportunity to discover how much you really know about unit trusts, insurance, pensions, building societies and other subjects that generally come under the heading of personal finance such as the Business Expansion Scheme, tax and National Savings. And how quick are you to spot the names of key personalities in the personal finance world?

The CHAMPAGNE CHRISTMAS quiz consisting of 20 questions is designed to test your knowledge in a serious manner - though not too serious, of course.

The first all-correct entry form drawn from a hat will win a magnum of magnificent Krug Grande Cuvée champagne.

The next five all-correct entries will each win a bottle of Krug Grande Cuvée champagne, and the next 10 all-correct entries will each receive a £15 book token.

HOW TO ENTER:

Against each of the 20 questions shown below we have provided four possible answers - a, b, c or d. Only one of the answers is correct. All you have to do is select the correct answer and write a, b, c or d in the boxes numbered 1 to 20 at the bottom of the entry form.

Then send your completed entry to The Editor, Family Money, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive at this address not later than Wednesday, December 31, 1986.

The names of the quiz winners will be published in Family Money on Saturday, January 10, 1987.

- Unit trust funds under management have increased substantially in recent years. At the end of October what did the funds under management amount to?
 - £29.9 million
 - £90.3 million
 - £8.7 billion
 - £29.9 billion
- In which year did gold hit its peak price in US dollar terms?
 - 1986
 - 1974
 - 1980
 - 1981
- 1986 was the year of Big Bang, but Big Bang had its origins in a pact between the chairman of the Stock Exchange and a government minister back in 1983. Who was the government minister?
 - Sir Geoffrey Howe
 - Cecil Parkinson
 - Leon Brittan
 - Sir Keith Joseph
- The maximum mortgage loan on which tax relief could be claimed on the interest element was raised to £30,000. In which year did this become effective?
 - 1968
 - 1974
 - 1983
 - 1985
- Which of the clearing banks has launched a touch-screen, instant dealing service for British Gas shares?
 - Barclays
 - Lloyds
 - Midland
 - National Westminster
- 1986 has been the year of the acronym. One of the following is not a proposed self-regulatory organization. Which is it?
 - LAUTRO
 - BIBA
 - FIMBRA
 - AFBD
- Of which UK investment trust was the disgraced American arbitrageur Ivan Boesky until recently chairman?
 - GT Japan
 - Cambridge & General
 - Yooman
 - Ailsa
- Which pop star recently became chairman of a financial advice company?
 - Cliff Richard
 - Gary Glitter
 - Adam Faith
 - Helen Shapiro
- The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau has had only one ombudsman since its formation in 1981. Who is he?
 - James Haswell
 - Ernest Saunders
 - Sir Kenneth Newman
 - Ian Edwards-Jones
- Which continental European market recorded the biggest percentage stock market index rise in the first 11 months of 1986 to the end of November?
 - Spain
 - Italy
 - France
 - Germany
- On which date did the Dow Jones Industrial Average touch its low point for 1986 in the period January 1 to November 30?
 - January 22
 - April 9
 - September 18
 - October 27



RULES

- Employees of The Times, News International, London Post (Printers) Ltd and their families are not eligible to enter.
- Entries will be limited to one per person and must be made on an official entry form. Photocopies are not acceptable.
- Entries must be received at the office of The Times by Wednesday, December 31, 1986.
- Proof of posting will not be accepted as evidence of receipt.
- The Editor's decision in all matters is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____

My choices are:
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
 15 16 17 18 19 20

Send your completed entry form to: The Editor, Family Money, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive not later than Wednesday, December 31, 1986. Please mark your envelope CHRISTMAS QUIZ

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	11.00%
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Citibank Savings†	12.45%
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Co-operative Bank	11.00%
C. Hoare & Co	11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

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RACING

Darc Hansel poised to play leading role in Chepstow stamina test

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Following that encouraging run at Cheltenham 15 days ago when he finished a close fourth in the race won by I Havalentigh, having not run for 20 months, Darc Hansel is taken to win the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow today.

pedigree and he races like one. He should give us a good run. Jenny Pitman will be three-handed in an attempt to win the prize a third time.

Dunston for whom Mr Ramsden paid 36,000 guineas at Newmarket this autumn. Dunston's first run over hurdles at Uttoxeter certainly augured well.



Knock Hill, whose American owner Peter Thompson has made a flying visit from the United States to watch the 10-year-old compete in today's Welsh National at Chepstow

Classic successes laid foundation for Piggott fortune

By Michael Seely

Lester Piggott's arrest yesterday for alleged tax evasion must have come as a major shock to his legions of admirers in all probability. Piggott must be the highest-paid sportsman in British history.

It was during this period that Piggott must have laid the foundations of his considerable fortune. O'Brien, Robert Sangster, the millionaire race horse owner, and John Magnier, head of the Coolmore Stud.

Sherwood booked

Simon Sherwood has been booked by David Elsworth to ride either Coombs Dieth or Desert Orchid in the King George VI Rank Chase.

Presenting a full service on New Year's Day

There are six race meetings on New Year's Day, and The Times will be publishing on that day, providing a full service for Cheltenham, Caterick Bridge, Windsor, Leicester, Carlisle and Devon & Exeter.

Course specialists

Table listing race results and course specialists for various tracks including Cheltenham, Windsor, and Leicester.

CHEPSTOW

Table with Selections by Mandarin, listing race numbers, names, and odds.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.05 Corbiere. The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.30 HIGH KNOWL.

Guide to our in-line racecard

Table providing details for various races including 1.00 Powerless, 1.30 DUNSTON (nap), and 2.05 Darc Hansel.

2.5 CORAL WELSH NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (€21,135; 3m 6f) (17 runners)

Table listing race details for the Coral Welsh National Handicap Chase, including runner numbers and names.

FORM

1 HAVENTALIGHT (10-11) beat Queensway Boy (10-0) 2 1/2 with DARC HANSEL (10-4) another 4 1/2 in 4m at Cheltenham (2m 11, £7700, good, Dec 5, 6m), STEARNS (10-0) not at his best when 15 1/2 in 6m at Newbury (2m 20, good, Dec 5, 6m), better form on final day of last season when (12-0) beating Royal Gambol (10-0) at Sandown (2m 21, £4350, good to soft, Apr 19, 6m).

2.40 NEWSBOY HANDICAP CHASE (€2,264; 2m 4f) (16 runners)

Table listing race details for the Newsboy Handicap Chase, including runner numbers and names.

3.10 SCOUT NOVICE CHASE (4-Y-O; £1,345; 2m) (7 runners)

Table listing race details for the Scout Novice Chase, including runner numbers and names.

3.40 KINGSBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (€1,315; 2m 4f) (22 runners)

Table listing race details for the Kingsbridge Handicap Hurdle, including runner numbers and names.

2.15 SANDYFORD HANDICAP HURDLE (€1,749; 2m 4f) (7 runners)

Table listing race details for the Sandyford Handicap Hurdle, including runner numbers and names.

2.45 BENNAN HANDICAP CHASE (€1,589; 2m 4f) (9 runners)

Table listing race details for the Bennan Handicap Chase, including runner numbers and names.

1.5 TAILRAW HANDICAP CHASE (€1,931; 2m) (6 runners)

Table listing race details for the Tailraw Handicap Chase, including runner numbers and names.

1.45 MILLERAY'S BELLE CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (€2,903; 3m 3f 40y) (3 runners)

Table listing race details for the Milleray's Belle Challenge Cup Handicap Chase, including runner numbers and names.

2.0 MANSFIELD NOVICE CHASE (€2,321; 3m) (11 runners)

Table listing race details for the Mansfield Novice Chase, including runner numbers and names.

2.30 BINGHAM HANDICAP CHASE (€1,704; 2m 6f) (9 runners)

Table listing race details for the Bingham Handicap Chase, including runner numbers and names.

3.0 CLIFTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (€1,184; 2m 6f) (15 runners)

Table listing race details for the Clifton Conditional Jockeys Handicap Hurdle, including runner numbers and names.

1.0 COLWICK HANDICAP CHASE (€1,666; 2m) (11 runners)

Table listing race details for the Colwick Handicap Chase, including runner numbers and names.

1.30 TOLLERTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div II; £965; 2m) (20 runners)

Table listing race details for the Tollerton Novice Hurdle, including runner numbers and names.

Course specialists

Table listing course specialists for various tracks, including trainers and jockeys.

AYR

Table listing race details for Ayr, including selections and race information.

Course specialists

Table listing course specialists for various tracks, including trainers and jockeys.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Wit Wood as Fa' and 'Injury Gira'.

كوزا من الأصيل

CRICKET

Mt Wellington recalls Woolley's 305 not out as Tasmania fall for 77

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Hobart

It always seems to be the same here - wet or windy, or both. Yesterday it was very windy and occasionally wet...

will be playing a one-day international against West Indies on February 3. The Hobart ground, with Mount Wellington rising behind it...

Kim Hughes's brother, Glenn, was also leg before yesterday, trying to look before he had his eye in the third...

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Runs, and Balls. Includes players like E J Harris, P J Bower, and G J Brasher.

The ball moved about enough off the pitch for Richards to take three catches at the wicket, Athey two at third slip...

The other recognized English ball bowler on view, Ellison, did his most effective work with the bat...

Whether each of them did has any bearing on the Test team for Melbourne next week will depend to some extent on Botham's fitness...

French is out of hospital, nothing worse than a chest infection having been diagnosed, and he, too, could be in the side for Tuesday...

By lunch yesterday, much of the time lost when no play was possible on Thursday had been made up...

problems. At just this time on England's last tour of Australia, Pringle was having them. Since then, Pringle has taken himself in hand...

Bowler, who was leg before in the ninth over, may be remembered for having scored 100 not out in his first first-class match...

But by the time Ellison bowled yesterday the pitch had eased and he found Slack in his best form...

Draw likely

Kanpur, (Reuter) - Rain and the strength of the two sides' batting line-up make a draw from the match likely...

SKIING

Injury may keep Girardelli out

Kranjska Gora (Reuter) - Marc Girardelli, the World Cup overall champion, is expected to be out of the race for the second time this season...

"I'm suffering a lot and I don't know what will happen over the next few days," he said. "But this season is over for me."

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Table of racing results from Fakenham, Ayr, and other tracks. Columns include race name, winner, and odds.

RACKET

Malvern show the way

Malvern is another school to have done well in the public schools singles championship. Two of their players, Michael Hemman and Ian Timberlake, eliminated seeds...



The way to stardom: Don Wilson coaches a young batsman, Gerard Wilson. (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

The game on a crescendo

By Ivo Tennant

MCC's Christmas coaching courses have never been more popular than they are now. During these school holidays more than 300 youths and boys are being tutored, disciplined and above all, invigorated...

measured 35 first class cricketers. Phillip DeFreitas, was his first England tour, was spotted by Wilson in the indoor school and given a place on MCC's ground staff.

The key is that we make it interesting and fun for them. We also try to teach them to behave properly. Behaviour has become lax in all walks of life...

"Cricket is on a crescendo," Don Wilson, MCC's head coach, said. "An enormous number of people are inquiring about our courses. Boys are coming from Aberdeen, Ireland, Hong Kong..."

So, has Wilson found a potential first-class cricketer this Christmas? He thinks he has. Phillip Weston is 13, the son of Mike Weston, chairman of England's rugby selectors...

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CROSS-COUNTRY

Volatile Mamede and Hutchings clash in Cardiff

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

It is probably too much to hope that Tim Hutchings and Fernando Mamede will reproduce the same exciting finish in tomorrow's International Athletics Club race in Cardiff...

and Hutchings have a similar record. They are both reigning national champions and have also finished third in the world championships...

Hutchings is the Briton in form this year, and Mamede has the same sort of success rate as Cova when the Portuguese is not running in major championships...

But Hutchings probably has the edge on form at tomorrow's distance of eight kilometres at the moment. The Englishman won the first big domestic race over 6.9 km at Gateshead three weeks ago...

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But Hutchings probably has the edge on form at tomorrow's distance of eight kilometres at the moment. The Englishman won the first big domestic race over 6.9 km at Gateshead three weeks ago...

The best example is when Mamede set the world 10,000 metres record of 27min 13.81sec in Stockholm in 1984...

But his most two recent visits to Britain have shown how well he can perform without championship pressure - he has won the IAC road races in Westminster and York in the last two years...

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ATHLETICS

Long's giant strides

By Ivo Tennant

Dave Long, an office worker who took up running only three years ago, will lead Britain's challenge in the World Marathon Cup in Seoul next year.

a day earlier will be Sarah Rawell (Dartford), Sandra Franconi (Victoria Park), Sally Ellis (Worcester) and Maureen Hurst (Clayton-le-Moor).

Long took more than three hours to run his first marathon in 1983. He has since made such giant strides that he has been named today as one of the four runners to tackle the quality international field on April 12...

Long, who hopes to improve on his personal best of two hours 14 minutes will be backed by the experienced trio of Welshman, Juan Ellis (Newport), and the Scots Lindsay Robertson (Edinburgh) and Fraser Clyne (Aberdeen).

Britain's quartet in the equivalent marathon for women

will be Sarah Rawell (Dartford), Sandra Franconi (Victoria Park), Sally Ellis (Worcester) and Maureen Hurst (Clayton-le-Moor).

HOCKEY

Firebrands withstand late rally

By Sydney Friskin

England's juniors, playing as the Shadows, did well to restrict the experienced Firebrands to a 7-4 win in group A of the Roses indoor tournament at Bristol yesterday. It was only in the last seconds that Purchase scored the seventh goal for Firebrands...

BADMINTON

Showdown looming for Frost

By Sydney Friskin

Morten Frost, the All-England and European Champion, yesterday kept on course for a showdown with Yang Yang, the Chinese No 1, in tomorrow's championship decider in the Marlboro World Grand Prix finals in Kuala Lumpur.

Frost, aged 26, from Copenhagen, completed his third straight games victory, this time over the Chinese, in the Indonesian Thomas Cup play-off. That ensures Frost finished 100 of his group and qualified for the last four. He now needs the surprise qualifier, little-known Indonesian Alan Budi Kusuma...

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An early goal by Purchase, from a corner, and three by Parker, the second from a free-kick, put the Shadows in a 4-0 lead after which Firebrands, who were a little slack with their drill, squandered three corners. Bates squared the lead to 2-0 before Neal obtained the first goal for Shadows...

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In the second half McGuire (two) and Takher, from a penalty stroke, scored for Shadows with Parker and Purchase replying for Firebrands to level the score at 2-2. The England senior team, beat Teddington 4-2 in group B.

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Outdoor competition has been suspended this weekend as being suspended in the Pizza Express London League. Blackheath at the bottom of the table are at home to Richmond in the only premier division match today. Blackheath, who have never been quite the same since they lost their international centre-half, Daved, who moved on to Indian Gymkhana.

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Richmond, fifth in the table, seem to have stronger resources with Westcott in the forward line, Newton in midfield and Daubney in defence to guide their fortunes. Guildford, at the top of the percentage league, still unbeaten, are unaffected by indoor commitments for their home match against Beckenham.

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FOR THE RECORD

ICE HOCKEY

MOSCOW: Finland five-nations tournament (round robin): Finland 5, Czechoslovakia 2; Finland 5, USSR 1; USSR 4, Czechoslovakia 2; USSR 4, Finland 2; USSR 4, Czechoslovakia 2.

TENNIS

POMPADOUR BEACH, Florida: Continental Players Cup tennis tournament: Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 6-3, 6-4; Boris Becker (Germany) 6-4, 6-3; Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 6-3, 6-4; Boris Becker (Germany) 6-4, 6-3.

NORDIC SKIING

OSL: Norwegian World Cup (men's): Kjetil André Aamodt (Norway) 2:15.10; Bjarne Andersson (Sweden) 2:15.10; Kjetil André Aamodt (Norway) 2:15.10; Bjarne Andersson (Sweden) 2:15.10.

Twins banned

Warsaw (Reuter) - Polish identical twin wrestlers have been suspended from competition for two years for changing places in a league championship bout, the official PAF news agency reported.

RUDDY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Hampshire 6, Royston Park 3; Wiltshire 10, Wiltshire Flooded Out; Essex 15, Essex 15; Essex 15, Essex 15.

Top of the class

Danny Sapsford (Surrey) and Sue McCarthy (Avon) will take a break from their A-level studies to defend their Prudential British junior indoor titles - they are the under-18 top seeds - at Queen's Club, starting on December 29.

GOLF

A tropical Palmer creaks

From John Ballantine, Montego Bay

As Billy Casper stepped on to the first tee of the \$730,000 (about £510,000) Mazda tournament here in Jamaica yesterday the starter directed out his list of accomplishments for the benefit of the 20 spectators...

which pairs the top 12 seniors with the leading dozen women pros for a first prize of \$500,000. Casper's partner, Jan Stephenson, of Australia, one of 14 millionaires in golf, held an eight-footer for a birdie two at the 138-yard first to put her side one under in their better-ball score.

Palmer rapped a 30-footer three feet past and after his partner, Chris Johnson, had duly got her three he missed. Chris Johnson, chairman of England's rugby selectors, said Wilson, is a fine cricketer in the making. The next generation is on its way.

At the mention of the latter, Casper's playing opponent, Arnold Palmer, lifted his eyes skywards. Few watchers knew why but the gesture spoke

of his selection in the Olympic Club, San Francisco.

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RUDDY LEAGUE

Hard job for Irvine on youth debut

Great Britain have made four changes for the second and final youth international against the Australians at Elland Road, Leeds, tomorrow in an effort to square the series after losing the first match 3-4.

TENNIS

Olsson predicts a third successive win

Melbourne (AP) - Sweden's coach, Hans Olsson predicts a win for Sweden for the third successive year in their Davis Cup match against Australia which begins here on December 26, despite the absence of Mats Wilander.

London, would play in the doubles now that Jarryd was now fully recovered from his knee injury.

Richard Irvine, of Huddersfield, gains his first cap on the wing and has the formidable task of marking the Australians' leading scorer, Darryl Harrison, who has taken his try tally to 10 for the tour.

Olsson, who arrived in Melbourne with his team on Thursday, admitted Wilander would be much missed.

The pair played only one set but McWilliams took 25 minutes only to demolish his younger opponent 6-1. Yet, McNamara remains aware that he will be hard pressed to force himself into contention for a place in the Davis Cup.

Gary Phillips, of Dewsbury, comes in as prop forward, Chris Connelly, of Warrington, is at full back and Andy Raw, of Leeds, switches wings.

Despite Wilander's absence, Olsson said his team was better and more experienced than that which had lost to Australia in the 1983 final. Stefan Edberg, Anders Jarryd, Jan Erik Nilsson and Mikael Pernfors were better used to grass courts than in 1983.

Olsson said also that Edberg and Jarryd, winners of the recent world doubles title by the courts.

BOXING

Roman to stay busy

Bangkok (Reuter) - Gilberto Roman, of Mexico, retained his World Boxing Council super-flyweight title yesterday when he outpointed Kongtoranee Payakarn, of Thailand. He still plans no rest despite making four successful defenses since winning the title from Hiro Watanabe, of Japan, on March 30.

content his way. Throughout the last four rounds of the 12-round fight he was firmly in control through probing left jabs.

The far more experienced Mexican, who entered the ring at the age of 11, then unleashed a finely paced campaign that left the Thai exhausted, bleeding from the nose, while his eyes were nearly closed when he was nudged, but for once the Mexican failed to fulfil his reputation as a knockout specialist.

Rafael Mendoza, the promoter, said Roman, one of the world's busiest champions, would now begin training on January 2 to take on Antoine Monier in France, although the Mexican had to battle for survival in the fifth round against the Thai challenger before his superior footwork and ringcraft strategy paid dividends.

The three judges scored the match 114-113, 115-113 and 116-114, all for the champion, 10 give Roman his 39th victory in 43 outings. It was Kongtoranee's first defeat in 10 outings.

Roman is a very good champion. "He is ready to defend anywhere. He went to Argentina to fight Mexican failed to fulfil his reputation as a knockout specialist.

Roman, aged 25, had predicted a knockout, but found himself evenly matched in a defensive battle in the early rounds and on the ropes in the fifth when he had to dig deep into his resources to turn the

injury last week, but back in the wars again, after breaking his collar bone while schooling at his mother's Lambour yard. "He was partnering a novice when he was upped at a ditch. He's got to see a specialist before we will know how bad the injury is, but he is going to be out for a good two weeks," said Jenny Pitman.

Roman, aged 25, had predicted a knockout, but found himself evenly matched in a defensive battle in the early rounds and on the ropes in the fifth when he had to dig deep into his resources to turn the

Injured again

Mark Pitman, who only returned from injury last week, but back in the wars again, after breaking his collar bone while schooling at his mother's Lambour yard. "He was partnering a novice when he was upped at a ditch. He's got to see a specialist before we will know how bad the injury is, but he is going to be out for a good two weeks," said Jenny Pitman.

Bangor abandoned - course waterlogged

Bangor abandoned - course waterlogged.

COOL STRIKE

COOL STRIKE (at Hampden): 1. B. FREE (Miss A) 1.15 (2); 2. B. FREE (Miss A) 1.15 (2); 3. B. FREE (Miss A) 1.15 (2); 4. B. FREE (Miss A) 1.15 (2); 5. B. FREE (Miss A) 1.15 (2).

FOOTBALL: THE RED-HAIRED LANCASHIRE TERRIER CANNOT WAIT TO DIVE STRAIGHT BACK INTO THE DOG FIGHT

Portsmouth told to go out and battle for the right to play the game

By Clive White

Alan Ball remains unrepentant. One week after the proud name of Portsmouth was sullied by its deep implication in the most notorious football match played in England for 31 years, Ball declared yesterday that he would instruct his players to do exactly the same against Barnsley at Fratton Park today.

Ball, who watched in disbelief at Bramall Lane last Saturday as three of his players and one from Sheffield United were sent off before half-time, said: "I shall tell them the same as I did last week, to go out and fight for the right to play their football."

When Ball was appointed manager three seasons ago he called Portsmouth a "dirty fighting" city an unfortunate choice of words given last week's events. But he explained: "People have fought for the right to live here; they have a right to expect their team to do the same."

The 41-year-old red-haired Lancashire terrier cannot wait to dive straight back into the dog fight at the top of the second division after what he described as "the longest week of my life".

can "take the milk out of your teeth". He said: "It's out the team you play against it's the places you have to go to. When we leave the lovely south coast we've got to go to Huddersfield, Bradford, Leeds, Blackburn, Hull, Grimsby, Shrewsbury, Oldham. We've got about 12 of them in the cold of winter. It ain't all hard for a team who play good football."

"You've got to fight for the right to match them for effort before your ability can come out. It's the same in boxing, cricket or any other sport. If there's one thing a first division club dread in the Cup, it's to hear their name following on from Huddersfield will play... Nobody wants to go to these places but we have to - and it's not just a one off."

Ball bemoaned the inconsistencies in refereeing. "I watched a game 24 hours after one in which five players would have been sent off had they been playing in front of our referee. They've got it so water-tight. There's no right of appeal, the referee is always right. If anyone mentions anything about them they're bringing the game into disrepute and fined up to £500. You have to take it on the chin. There's nothing else you can do."

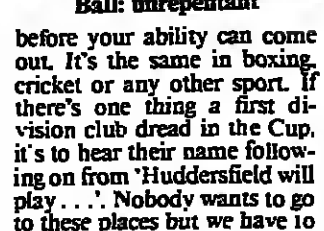
Gordon Taylor, the secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association, admitted he was not con-

vinced that a no-appeal system for sendings off was the best. "I am thinking more and more there should be room for appeal within the 14 days before suspensions take effect other than for just mistaken identity." As for cautions and suspensions for dissent, which figured prominently in the Sheffield game, he was less sympathetic. "No one is going to change a referee's mind about a decision."

Portsmouth say they have not decided yet whether to discipline the three players concerned, Dillon, Gilbert and Tait, but Taylor said: "The best influence on discipline has to come from the club. We don't want players playing with hands over their arms but there's a matter of being hard and fair. The biggest influence on a player is the manager - I know from when I was playing - for good or bad."

Ball insists that no manager ever told him to go out and hurt people or do something that would get him sent off. He maintains that he treats his players the way he would like to be treated as a player. "Because I was a bit naughty when I was younger, people think this is how I am now."

But Ball confesses that his ambitions have not changed. "As a kid I wanted to be the best player in England. Now I want to be the best manager."



Ball: unrepentant

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Arsenal v Luton
Hill is set to return for Luton after five weeks absence. North is also added to last week's squad. Nicholas returns as substitute for Arsenal.

Chelsea v Spurs
Allen has struggled off a mangled leg. Close is included as well in a squad of 13 which includes Andries. Claesen plays for the reserves. Chelsea injury list has shortened to Hazard, Murphy, McAlister and Durie. Wicks is overlooked.

Oxford v A Villa
Just as Villa welcome back Williams, Elliott and Jones from suspension and Birch from injury so they lose Hodge with a virus. Oxford will probably be unchanged though Briggs will need a rest on his ankle. Searcy is returning from suspension, is the likely substitute.

Charlton v Liverpool
Liverpool, already without Molloy and Johnston, have lost Venison with a back injury. Wark, Abbott and Watson are included in a squad of 14. Johns, unavailable because of suspension, may now be unavailable because of injury - to his shoulder. Bolder, who spent two years at Anfield without playing a first-team game, stands by.

Nottn F v Southampton
Forest drop Bowyer, the captain, and bring back Mills against a Southampton side who have conceded 23 goals in nine away games. Birles returns in place of Starbuck. Dennis is struggling to overcome tonsillitis for Southampton.

Everton v Wimbledon
Field is back as the Everton substitute. He has not played since June. Wimbledon add Gage and Morris to last week's 12.

West Ham v QPR
Stewart has failed to recover from a hamstring strain. Potts will probably continue to be absent though Watford has been added to the squad. Dawes ends a run of 187 consecutive league appearances because of a sprained ankle. Filby, who has not played since March because of back trouble, returns to the squad.

Man Utd v Leicester
Hansy is included in a Leicester squad that is without Walsh because of injury and Venus who is suspended. O'Brien, a player's recent signing, makes his debut in place of the injured Moses and Colin Gibson plays his first league game since August because of injury to Davenport. Sierantowicz is expected to return from suspension, who has a rib injury.

Coventry v Man City
Pickering, who was poised to miss last week's game (eventually postponed) because of a stomach bug, remains the ever-present cover for Coventry. Adams deputises for McGrath. Manchester City will be without Graafland (hamstring) and possibly Sierantowicz (rib). Searcy, who played with Reid and May on stand by.



Big day ahead: Liam O'Brien yesterday at Old Trafford, where he will make his debut for Manchester United against Leicester City today

Chelsea far from a lost cause Pleat warns Tottenham

By Clive White

David Pleat, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, expects to face the severest test today from the worst side in the first division. The Chelsea players whose fortunes last week sunk as low as they could go, to the bottom of the first division table, will be playing for their own futures as well as that of the club. Pleat said:

"It is a difficult game at this stage of the season for whoever is playing them because they have lost their last two games. Sooner or later they are going to get a good result. There's a great incentive for any Chelsea player right now because as soon as they win a game, they are likely to stick with that team," Pleat said.

For the first time in months Hollins was able to announce his team the day before a game, ironically at the end of a week when his casualty list stretched into double figures. Dixon and Nevin have been declared fit and the injured absentee list has shrunk to Hazard - formerly of Tottenham - Murphy, McAlister and Durie. Wicks, who submitted a written transfer request this week, has again been overlooked.

Chelsea players remain Stamford Bridge and their own supporters, though Hollins acknowledged that they were a great source of encouragement last week at Anfield in the televised game which drew an unstruck only too vividly the gulf between top and bottom. Pleat believes that facing Tottenham will give them a great incentive. "Everyone likes to beat Spurs. When Chelsea came to White Hart Lane earlier in the season they played as though they were fighting for their lives even then. They were

in some trouble at the time and they came and got a result. "I think Hollins has coped very well. He's remained very calm through it all. It's never easy for a manager when things are not going well but someone has to be rock bottom."

One side who seem to be turning the corner are Manchester United, who have also been troubled this week by injuries and are forced to field Liam O'Brien, recently signed from Shamrock Rovers, in midfield in place of the injured Moses against Leicester City. The obvious replacement, Blackmore, is unfit, but Alex Ferguson, the manager, said of O'Brien: "He is not yet the finished article because he has only been training with us for two months but he has lots of ability and a good temperament. He is also capable of scoring outside the box."

United, who have twice

sundered two-goal leads in the last week, kept their lead in the last week's 15-year-old debutant in goal. Their main concern seems to be Davenport, their outstanding player last week when he scored twice against Aston Villa. He has not trained all week because of a rib injury received in that game and will be required to pass a fitness test. Stapleton is in reserve. One player who does appear to have mended is Colin Gibson, out since the second match of the season with a hamstring injury. He replaces Durbury, who has a knee injury.

At Old Trafford a run of appearances, 157 of them, come to an end for Daves, the Queen's Park Rangers full back who turned an ankle in training. Rangers can ill afford to lose him for the derby against West Ham United after their recent

Reading rubbish Albion

By Chris Moore

West Bromwich Albion v Reading
West Bromwich Albion were subjected to chants of "what a load of rubbish" from the supporters as their promotion hopes took an unexpected knock at the Hawthorns last night as Reading easily recorded their first win in five games.

The Albion defence was caught cold from the outset. Reading scored two goals in the opening 14 minutes. Ironically, it was former West Brom goalkeeper, Barrow, who was instrumental in setting up Reading's opener. Cowdrell made a hash of trying to clear Barrow's long goal

kick, allowing Bremner to set Williams away on the right. His cross was measured to perfection for Bremner to plant a header out of Newton's reach. The comedy of errors continued with Whitehead's self-kicking another intended clearance to let in Senior to coolly convert his 14th goal of the season.

Albion's problems continued when they were reduced to 10 men after Dyson had limped off. Crooks finally scored an opportunistic consolation goal. WEST BROMWICH ALBION: S. Hogg, G. Whittaker, G. Cowdrell, G. Dyson, G. Barrow, G. Newton, G. Senior, G. Bremner, G. Crooks. READING: P. Barrow, C. Ball, S. Richardson, S. Taylor, G. Wood, G. Miles, L. Terry, G. Senior, G. Bremner, G. Crooks, G. Hogg. Referee: R. G. Hillard.

BOWLS

£50,000 at stake at Coatbridge

An increased purse of more than £50,000 - a record for bowls - will be at stake in the Embassy world indoor singles championship at Coatbridge from February 7 to 15. The individual prize money has not yet been announced by the World Indoor Bowls Council but last February, out of a total of £41,000, Tony Alcock, the winner, received £11,000 and Phil Skoglund, the runner-up, £5,000.

The vacancy in the field of 32 has been filled by Don Peoples, of Australia, who reached the semi-finals in 1985 and lost in the second round last February. The original nomination was Ian Schuback, the silver medal winner at the Commonwealth Games, another Australian, but he is unavailable.

SNookER

Hendry put on the invite list

Stephen Hendry, the young Scot, has been given a wild card entry into next March's World Classic which has been dominated by the withdrawal of seven world ranked players (a Special Correspondent writes). The entire Matchroom squad has been pulled out by their manager, Barry Hearn, after a row over dates. But the Belgian promoter, Dany Kalter, is determined that the tournament will go on. He said: "We will invite Hendry and probably Malia's Tony Drago. We need players who will excite the crowds."

WEEKEND FOOTBALL AND OTHER FIXTURES

Table with columns for First division, Second division, Southern League, Premier division, and various cup fixtures. Includes teams like Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham, etc.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL AND OTHER FIXTURES

Table with columns for First division, Second division, Third division, Fourth division, Scottish premier division, Scottish second division, and various cup fixtures. Includes teams like Liverpool, Manchester United, etc.

From part-time to the big time with Northampton

By David Powell

There is no room for the manager's office in the football ground at Northampton. And if not for the fact that cricket is a summer game, there would be no room for the footballers either. At the end of each season, the pitch becomes a car park for customers of Northamptonshire CCC. It is almost as absurd as the prospect of Northampton being the only club in the country to have a pitch-placed car park at the part-time ground, combining to set a League points record.

The transformation is due to two men

At their present rate Northampton will reach 116 points, which would comfortably overstrip the League record of 102 held by Swindon Town. In Richard Hill they have the League's leading scorer on 20 goals and it is his extraordinary strike rate for a midfield player which no doubt attracted Ron Yeats, the Liverpool chief scout, to last week's FA Cup tie against Southern United. But Carr assures Northampton supporters: "We want to get out of the fourth division and we won't be selling him this season."

Less than two years ago Northampton were bottom of the League and had just played their lowest ever attendance of 947. The transformation and their new sound financial structure can be traced to two men. But here is one in the face for the traditional cornerstones of experience and continuity. When the pair came together in April last year neither had worked in the field they were entering.

Carr had never managed a League club and the chairman, Derek Banks, was nothing more to the game than an occasional supporter of Watford. "When I came I didn't know anything about football," Banks confesses. But his tobacco company now has a 73 per cent shareholding and there is no question of the club folding as there was two years ago.

The people of Northampton, where football talk is in vogue again, might shudder to learn that when Banks first approached the club he was not taken seriously. He recalls: "I had been standing on the terraces at Watford with Mick Courvoisier, who is now a director and lives in Northampton. We had just watched them lose a Milk Cup quarter-final against Sunderland and we left the ground. Mick asked me if I fancied making a football club. I sent my accountant up to Northampton but nobody met him."

Carr's telephone is forever ringing at his office in the Cobblers' shop opposite the ground. He takes a heavy toll from managers and supporters alike. "He's got street credibility," says Alan Tait, a former Northants cricketer now helping to administer the football club lottery and referring to Carr's willingness to mix with all the game's social scenes.

But if there is one thing likely to please Carr more than credibility in Northampton it awaits him in Newcastle on January 10. That is the day he takes his team to the land of first division giants in the FA Cup third round. And where better to have his finest footballing hour than in the town where he was born?

because they thought it was a hoax. Banks says he is fortunate to have a team of hard-working directors, most of whom give three or four days a week to the club. And they put their money in 100. One, Dick Underwood, was eager to hasten the signing of two Newcastle Borough players in time for pre-season matches. To cut short the barrier-free hot-patch of players, plucked from the part-time ground, combining to set a League points record.

Carr, a centre-half in Northampton's first division days, places the emphasis on fitness in training. At Watford he had his players running across beaches, at Dartford he built an assault course and now Carr's cross-country runs and track relay sessions are weekly features in the lives of Northampton players. "I have been here two months and have never done so much running in all my life," Irving German, an experienced defender on loan from Ipswich Town, says.

Becoming manager of a League club, even if it was the bottom one, had been Carr's dream during eight years at Watford, Dartford and Newcastle.

His first move was to sign Hill and Trevor Morley, from Northampton along with a rabble from Frickley Athletic. Since then he has added Russell Wilcock (Frickley), Eddie McGoldrick (Nuneaton) and David Gilbert (Boston United). All are now playing in the first team and Carr has a wide range of players rather than the old-fashioned free transfer lists which wanted signing-on fees," Carr says.

Ian Benjamin, one of only three players to have survived Carr's clear-out from the squad, says: "I was a first division player, but I was impressed by the new incumbent of the post. He has brought good players in from non-League and allows them to express themselves," Benjamin says.

Manager Carr has 'street credibility'

Northampton's success in the counter-attack - "we get the ball forward early," says Morley, the skipper - has helped them become far and away the League's most prolific scorers. Their 53 goals (Nottingham Forest are next on 42) have been shared by every outfield player.

Carr's telephone is forever ringing at his office in the Cobblers' shop opposite the ground. He takes a heavy toll from managers and supporters alike. "He's got street credibility," says Alan Tait, a former Northants cricketer now helping to administer the football club lottery and referring to Carr's willingness to mix with all the game's social scenes.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Table listing regional television variations for Saturday and Sunday, including channels like BBC1, BBC2, ITV, and regional news programs.

SPORT

Watford run out of early power

By Clive White

Watford..... 1
Norwich City..... 1

After an electrifying start by Watford with a goal in 90 seconds the force drained from their initially powerful performance last night, as if in sympathy with a power failure that delayed the start of this rearranged fixture.

Two unsatisfactory first-half goals left the match nicely balanced at half-time, if even only to the score. Barnes, at his most outrageous best, was deserving of a far better goal than the one which gave Watford the lead after just 90 seconds.

As well as inflicting most of the serious blows upon a beleaguered Norwich defence he also created some of the most worthwhile chances, pointing over some excellent crosses from often hopeless positions. What with Callaghan, also a master of the art, doing much the same from the other wing, it was a wonder Norwich were still in the hunt by half-time.

Guon, the Norwich goalkeeper, had his aerial work cut out, though it was lower down that he was found wanting when Watford seized their early initiative. Falco nudged on to a clearance by Coton, the Watford goalkeeper, and when Culverhouse's half-hearted tackle left the way clear for Barnes the England player screwed in a shot of no great power which Gunn got a hand to, but he could still not prevent it trickling over the bar.

Falco, who had injured his shoulder and side in a hefty collision with Bruce, put Barnes through again six minutes later with a delightful touch, but this time Gunn blocked the way.

However, in a rare expedition into Watford territory in the 23rd minute Norwich pulled level in even more fortuitous circumstances. Pheasant, put into space by the neat and nimble Gordon, crossed the ball into the penalty area with minimum danger only for the situation suddenly to produce dire consequences for Watford when Terry deflected it past his goalkeeper and Bardsley could only help it across the line.

The Barnes-Gunn duel continued into the second half when a booted clearance from the back again released the alert Watford player. Gunn again raced from his goal to meet the advance head-on, but the ball broke kindly for Barnes and when he aimed his shot goalwards Butterworth stepped in to clear comfortably.

Watford pushed their corner tally to 17 with still half an hour remaining and Barnes again came close with a flashing header to a cross by Callaghan but the ball fell marginally wide.

WATFORD: A Coton; O Bardsley, W Roston, K Richardson, S Terry, J McClelland, N Callaghan, J Barnes, M Falco (capt); Serrano, J Lee, G Punter. NORWICH CITY: B Gunn; I Culverhouse, A Spink, S Buxton, J Pheasant, J Butterworth, I Gordon, D Drinkell, W Rogers, R Rosario, O Gordon. Referee: J Lloyd (Wrexham).

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
FIRST DIVISION: Watford 1, Norwich 1.
SECOND DIVISION: Birmingham City 2, Sheffield United 1; Ipswich Town 3, Plymouth Argyle 0; West Bromwich Albion 1, Reading 1.
THIRD DIVISION: Chester 1, Chesterfield 1; Darlington 3, Port Vale 2.
FOURTH DIVISION: Burnley 1, Cardiff City 3; Halifax 2, Hereford 1; Scunthorpe 3, Exeter 1; Stockport County 1, Wigan 1; Tranmere Rovers 0, Hartlepool 0 (goals scored after 27 minutes, floodlights failed).

FIFA want seats only ruling for 1994 World Cup

By John Goodbody

In a drastic move to eliminate hooliganism, FIFA, the governing body of world football, are proposing to have only seated spectators watching all qualifying games and final stage matches in the 1994 World Cup.

Sepp Blatter, FIFA's general secretary, said yesterday that the intention is to bring the rule into force for the 1994 tournament but the plan is to recommend the same regulations for all qualifying games for the 1990 tournament when the finals will be held in Italy.

England's chances of staging future World Cups could be drastically affected because only Coventry City, of the 92 League clubs, are able to seat more than 50 per cent of the capacity. Attendances for preliminary games could be sharply affected because Wembley has only 45,000 seats.

Explaining the proposal, Mr Blatter said: "We are fully convinced that aggressive behaviour and the resulting disturbances are rarely encountered in the seating sectors. It is clear that there is greater potential for violence in the open, tightly-packed terraces."

The problem of football-related violence has already been discussed by FIFA's committee for security and the plan will now go to FIFA's 25-

man organizing committee for the 1994 World Cup.

Guido Tognoni, a FIFA press spokesman, said there was no question of England being forced to play their qualifying games for the 1990 competition, scheduled to begin in the 1988-89 season, in stadia where all spectators are seated.

"It will only be a recommendation and will not be compulsory. It will also not be compulsory for the 1990 finals in Italy because it was not in the terms of reference decided for the country willing to host the 1990 finals. But we will be selecting the stadia for 1990 shortly and this recommendation could affect which ones we select there," he said.

Chantal Jourdan, a member of Italy's World Cup organizing committee, said of FIFA's plan: "We all want to avoid violence and this is one method of achieving it."

"We want to change the mentality of people who go to football matches, to stop the idea that going to a match is a question of violence. If people are sitting they are calmer and less tense physically." Most of Italy's 12 proposed stadia for 1990 have 75 per cent seating capacity.

Mr Tognoni said that Mr Blatter's statement would also certainly be shared by Joao Havelange, the president of

FIFA and, for the 1994 World Cup, the world governing body could insist on no standing spectators for matches.

Brazil, the favourites, Morocco and the United States have all expressed an interest in staging the tournament.

One of the reasons England failed to get the 1990 World Cup was because there is only one stadium in England capable of holding 50,000 fans where the seating capacity is more than 50 per cent. The exception is Twickenham, the home of Rugby Union.

Mr Tognoni said: "We want to force the clubs, particularly in Europe, to have better stadia. It is very old-fashioned to stand for 90 minutes in pouring rain to watch sport. The Americans cannot believe it."

Glen Kirton, a spokesman for the Football Association, said: "This is an interesting idea. But we are sure FIFA realize that there are immense complications with what they are putting forward. There are commercial problems to start with and we do not necessarily think that making people sit down makes people behave better."

Mr Kirton pointed out that despite the reputation of England fans there had never been a major crowd incident at Wembley for an international.

Ipswich's goals in sweet revenge

By A Correspondent

Ipswich..... 3
Plymouth Argyle..... 0

Ipswich, in fifth place, needed just 10 minutes to take the lead against the side that began the game two places above them in the league.

Seeking quick revenge for a comprehensive defeat at the hands of their visitors in October, Ipswich began with a flurry of frantic attacks which had the unversed Plymouth defenders hacking desperate clearances into all corners of the ground.

In only the first minute the Plymouth full back Nisbet was wofully short with a headed ball pass to his goalkeeper, Cherry, and two minutes later, the elegant Zondervan sent Wilson racing clear with a beautiful through ball only to see his shot deflected by Cherry.

But the goal which separated the sides at half-time was a proper reward for Ipswich's spirited and determined play.

Wilson, incidentally, was the scorer. He had begun the game in joint first place with Quino of Portsmouth, as the second division's leading scorer with 16 goals.

Clarke lifts City with early goals

By Dennis Shaw

Birmingham City..... 2
Sheffield United..... 1

Sheffield United fought back nobly at St Andrews last night after two goals from Wayne Clarke had set Birmingham up for a joyful start to their festive programme.

One second half goal by Steve Foley for Sheffield United was a disappointingly sparse return for their commendable attempt to exploit Birmingham's weaknesses.

A 19th minute handling offence by Dempsey to keep out Whitton's header from a Lynex corner gave Clarke the welcome chance for his 16th goal of the season.

Birmingham were quickly on the rampage again. This time Rees headed Mortimer's centre back across goal and Clarke was waiting to ood it over the line.

United's recent burst of respectable form was brought to a firm full stop. Wigley, on the right wing, was the man most likely to make a break for them, though he had little scope. Although they had Withe back after his nose injury, United's chances were strictly limited.

Yet Birmingham's seemingly secure lead suddenly looked shaky on the resumption. Foley had the chance to beat Hansbury but shot wide.

Then Mortimer hock tackled Morris without playing the ball for an obvious penalty, but Hansbury brilliantly saved Morris's shot.

United's breakthrough came after 67 minutes with a little help from Hansbury. Foley's 20-yarder was straight at him but the goalkeeper stopped it then allowed the ball to pass under his body.

BRISTOL CITY: A Hensbury; B Roberts, J Dicko, T Williams, J Overton, J Mortimer, D Brammer, W Clarke, S Whitton, F Rees, S Lynex. SHEFFIELD UNITED: A Barrie, A Burnley, M Pitts, M Dempsey, P Sandiford, J Edmondson, C Morris, S Wigley, P White, S Foley, P Beagrie. Referee: J E Marks.

Nicholl tells of vendetta

Chris Nicholl, the Southampton manager, claimed yesterday that a mystery person with a vendetta is trying to ruin the club. "I am not going to name anyone - but it's very obvious that someone with knowledge of the club that goes back at least three years is out to get us down," Nicholl said.

His outburst was triggered by the news that Mark Wright, the England centre half, wants to leave because of "internal trouble".

Wright's demand was rejected first by Nicholl and then by the Southampton board, but he is expected to play at Nottingham today despite his desire to move.

"It all started when we had four wins in succession last month. Things were going really well. Obviously, someone did not like us winning games and started stirring things up," said Nicholl.

● Doug Rougvie, the Chelsea defender, has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute following his sending off in the 4-0 home defeat by Wimbledon a fortnight ago. Rougvie starts a two-match ban today, missing the London derby with Tottenham Hotspur at Stamford Bridge. But the extra charge has been brought because he was reported by referee, Howard Kiog, for failing to leave the field after his dismissal.

● West Ham United will move a motion to halt the spread of artificial turf pitches for three years at a summit meeting of football clubs at Villa Park next month.

● Halifax Town's coach, Billy Ayre, was yesterday appointed the club's 21st post war manager. He takes over from Mick Jones who left this week to become assistant manager at Peterborough.



Wembley wisp: Martina Veliskova, of Czechoslovakia, on bars. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

A touch of class for Wembley

By Peter Aykroyd

The Kraft International at Wembley this weekend has taken a huge move up in status with the presence of Oksana Omelianchik, the Soviet joint world champion, in the 10-nation tournament.

Her entry is also a significant measure of the international prestige now enjoyed by Britain by virtue of high gymnastic standards and renewed ability for competition organization.

However, Miss Omelianchik will not find the competition a walkover by any means. Three of her opponents are in the world's 20 top gymnasts and will test her to her limits. Two of them, Boriana Stoyanova, of Bulgaria, and Iveta Polokova, of Czechoslovakia, finished sixth and eighth in the recent World Cup, while Diana Madava, of Bulgaria, took the bronze medal in the Champions-All at Wembley last spring.

Also competing is Lisa Elliott, in her first major international since winning the British national title in October.

Among the men, Mitsuki Watanabe, of Japan, is rated thirteenth in the world, but faces the experience of Alexei Titkounik, of the Soviet Union, and the youth of Zhou Jing, the Chinese with outstanding ability, a mixture that promises a fierce battle for medals. Britain's fast-improving men, while not likely to overshadow these three for the overall title, may cause a few surprises in some of the individual routines.

ALAN PASCOE has combined both in the space of a dozen years, with the announcement yesterday that his company, APA Ltd, which has the contract to market British athletics, has linked with the American WCRS group, a leading advertising agency, in a share exchange which will open international markets for the marketing of athletics.

When he retired after winning the 400 metres hurdles in the 1974 European and Commonwealth championships, Pascoe bought into marketing, which he combined with being an ITV commentator before getting the contract to market British athletics 18 months ago.

ATHLETICS
New plans to ban South Africans

By Paul Martin

African sport and political leaders have drawn up campaign plans against "allies of apartheid" who sneak South Africans into international competitions by using passports of convenience.

Next year, their first target is to ban athletes from running for Britain, or any other country, within two years of arrival from South Africa even if they were born in Britain or hold British passports.

The idea was received with some hostility by John Holt, the London-based International Amateur Athletic Federation secretary. "It would be impossible administratively: all we can check are athletes' passports, not their previous residences. We are here to help legitimate athletes, not block them. In any case, you can argue that they're not using passports for convenience: they are turning their back on South Africa. It is a one-way door; they can never return there to compete."

The Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, which concluded its annual meeting in Algiers this week, also threatened that African nations would systematically vote against candidates for top posts in international sports bodies whose countries "refuse to cease sports exchanges with South Africa". The Council's resolution also "warns countries which provide sanctuary for South African sport and which condone their sportsmen and sportswomen competing in South Africa, that they themselves could face isolation".

Gold for Pascoe again

Dreams of winning gold medals are as infrequently realized as plans by students on how to make their first million (Pat Butcher writes).

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YACHTING
Skipper who cheated death is feared lost

From Barry Pickthall, Sydney

Jacques de Roux, aged 50, a lone sailor and a former French submarine commander, who was competing in his second BOC singlehanded Round the World race, is missing, feared drowned, after his 50th yacht, Skoern IV, was found un-manned 250 miles south of here yesterday.

The skipper, who cheated death in this race four years ago after his yacht capsized midway between New Zealand and Cape Horn, last reported his position to race headquarters here at 5.20pm (local time) on Thursday when five miles off Green Cape, north of Bass Strait.

Officials first became concerned at 3.0am yesterday when the Argos satellite system, tracking the fleet, indicated that de Roux's yacht had inexplicably turned south away from the finish of this second stage of the race through the Southern Ocean from Cape Town to Sydney.

Australian rescue services were alerted and the BOC race organizers sent up a plane to search for the yacht, which was sighted shortly after 11.0am, 35 miles south-east of Gabo Island, sailing an erratic course and with sails flapping and no sign of life on board.

The patrol boat HMAS Fremantle was diverted to intercept the yacht and the crew from a passing bulk carrier boarded her at 6.0pm and confirmed that de Roux was missing. An air and sea search continued until nightfall and will be resumed at first light today.

Guy Bernardin, a fellow Frenchman, who reached here early yesterday to take fifth place on elapsed time, said on arrival that de Roux had failed to meet three radio schedules on Thursday and had reported his head badly on the spinner pole. "Perhaps he suffered delayed concussion and fell overboard," Bernardin said.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Solent snag
Solent Stars' hopes of competing in the world invitation club basketball championships at Crystal Palace on January 1-4 have hit a snag. Solent stepped in as a substitute team following the withdrawal of Polycell Kingston this week but have a Carlsberg division one fixture at Bolton on January 3.

For charity
Fulham Rugby League club, so hard up recently that they were on the verge of extinction, are dedicating Sunday as a food-raising day for the Royal Marsden Cancer Hospital. Fulham play York in a division two match at Chiswick Polytechnic Stadium.

Right formula
Nigel Mansell, of Britain, narrowly beaten to the Formula One title this year, admitted yesterday that he signed a two-year contract last July to drive for Ferrari in the world championship. He later decided to stay with the Williams team for another two years and said "the matter has been settled amicably" with Ferrari.

Title bout
Jim McDonnell's defence of his European featherweight title against the Italian, Valerio Nati, is likely to take place in Italy.

Victoria win
Sydney (Reuter) - Western Australia lost their final two wickets in a drama-packed five minutes late in the day to give Victoria the first innings points in their top-of-the-table Sheffield Shield match in Perth yesterday. The two points gave the visitors a clear lead in the table.

Cleaning up
Taken to the cleaners will have a new meaning for amateur golfers with a new tournament next year, the Sketchley championship. This is a new stableford event open to teams of three players from any company registered in England, Scotland and Wales. All entries must have bona fide club handicaps with a maximum limit of 18 for men and 27 for women.

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Advertisement for 'Ki' magazine, featuring a large 'Ki' logo and various text elements including 'The gold', 'Hodge mo', 'Leeds lose', and 'Reagan's'. The text is partially obscured and difficult to read in many places.